

# MACLEAN'S

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE | [www.macleans.ca](http://www.macleans.ca)

FEBRUARY 9 2004

## CANADIANS TO BUSH: HOPE YOU LOSE, EH

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BY JONATHAN  
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## MACLEAN'S

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

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LOSE, EH

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## NOT WANTED IN CANADA

Canadians don't think much of George W. Bush. That feeling seems to be mutual.

**ON THE LATE-NIGHT** Daily Show last week, the brilliant talk-show host Jon Stewart had as his guest Richard Perle, an adviser to the Postage, and someone confident of George W. Bush. Stewart—who does this fairly often—made some passing references to Canada. Perle, in return, responded that Canada is the sort of friend who is there for you after you need help. Aaah, funny one that, a draw predictable laughs. It was also a witty insurance

assess, unless you willfully ignore such events as this country's participation well before America in two world wars—or, more recently, the aid that Canadians extended to thousands of wounded Americans when their flights were diverted here on Sept. 11, 2001. But then, you could hardly expect Americans to remember the lesser—those Bush ignored Canada when he threatened nuclear offering assistance in the aftermath of that day.

Perle's gibe was another in a series of slights and dismissive asides from south of the border that have become increasingly commonplace under the Bush administration. It was also interesting for its subtext: the presumption that his audience would know why he was Canada-bashing, and agree. Until recently, the only ways for an American to track Canada would be predictable throwaways about pointless hockey players or our rainy weather—or, if they were really feeling daring, our collective lack of charisma. Now, Canada has become a favorite target for American conservatives—and it's clear why if you consider how this our legislation of gay marriage, demonization of immigrants, and spitting out of their war on Iraq.

In sum, it's important to acknowledge Canada's long tradition of U.S.-bashing. What's striking is how much more pronounced that's become since Bush came into office—and how much of that animosity is directed towards Bush personally. That's been apparent in various ways at the anecdotal level for some time—which is why we commissioned the poll questions that form the basis of this week's cover package (page 24). Those sentiments extend beyond partisan politics: as Jacobson Goodwin notes, even other Republican presidents like "Ronald Reagan and Bush the older were at

“Perle presumed that his audience would know why he was Canada-bashing, and agree.”

least grudgingly respected. Dubye's de-finitely not.” And, he adds: “Despite a spate of polls showing a broad desire for improved relations with the United States, there is a sense that [his administration isn't one we want to do business with.”

So we're growing apart politically even

as we grow closer economically and we're beginning to realize the problems that causes. It's hard to do business in good faith if two people don't like each other, as Bush and Jean Chrétien discovered. And there's a trade-down effect: once followers discover how their leader feels. That was evident in anti-Bush rhetoric by Christian sales and followers; now, the cracks about Canada in the U.S. come from Bush supporters or such pro-Bush media organs as Fox News and the American Spectator. Perceptiveness eventually becomes reality, as the singing by both sides, if continued, may become a defining characteristic of the relationship. At this end, I'm relieved to see Paul Martin taking steps to end that. But, and so say I'm like many other Canadians in doubting that Bush cares enough to do so.

*Anthony Wilson-Bush*

awilson@maclean.ca is comment on The Editor's Letter

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AN IRVING-CLOUD PUBLICATION

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Maclean's Editor

"When it comes to Sheila Copps, Canadians are upset by the vindictive treatment of a gutsy opponent who competed until the final whistle blew." —**ILU WINKLE, Whitby, Ont.**

#### Food fight

Your cover "Tainted Food" poses the question "Is everything bad for you?" And it correctly leaves the impression that, yes, indeed it is ("Tainted food," Cover, Jan. 26). I beg to differ. As a representative of the home economics profession on several advisory committees for Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, my strong impression is that these agencies, which are responsible for the safety of Canadian food, are extremely rigorous in setting standards for limits regarding contaminants in the food supply. In my view, Canada has the safest food of anywhere in the world. There are certainly concerns that need to be addressed, but they don't outweigh the overall safety and wholesomeness of the majority of our food.

—**THE TIPS, Oliver**

Your "Tainted food" cover story reads like a chapter out of "How to Discredit Canadian Agriculture and Build the Organic Movement in Canada." And Maclean's bought 100 books, line and order.

—**KARLO LEMIA, Napanee, Ont.**

If we buy local, as proposed, we lose the benefits of fresh fruits and vegetables in the winter. Are local seasonal goods better for our health than imported fresh products? What is the significance of asking, if any, if one uses farmed salmon? Does this risk exceed the potential proactive effects against heart disease afforded by eating fish? Is organic food truly safer than conventionally produced food? The questions are many and, regrettably, none were answered in your article.

—**JOHN F. PETERSON, Saskatoon**

"Tainted food" continues a media trend of scare-mongering over the safety of our Canadian food supply and perpetuates myths about family farms versus factory farms and the safety of organic foods versus conventionally produced foods. As a family farmer, I feel it is irresponsible to imply the food a consumer can buy from a local producer is safer than the Canadian produced fresh



Food on our grocery store shelves, Canada as produced food is safe. Period.

—**BOB BRIDGMAN, President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Vancouver, Man.**

You fail to mention an obvious step—growing your own food! The benefits of home grown food aren't just for rural people. An urban plot or empty window box can yield a surprising quantity of produce. Many cities have community gardens and provide access to land for those with little space at home. What's more, home gardening often a two-pronged attack on obesity—it provides exercise while supplying healthy food at a minimal price.

—**ANNA KLOPFER-DECK, Vancouver**

#### Going for grub | Not everyone is willing to spend for Olympic gold

This Olympic Summer Olympics are on for the August, but Tokyo is still in Newport, N.S., for the first sports two weeks. After reading the Jan. 26 of Q&A with Olympic athlete three weeks, I found wrote: "I had to take Ottawa, contributes \$50 million a year for high-performance sports. I would rather be No. 1 in coming up with solutions to eliminate poverty and homelessness."

#### Don't forget the suburbs

As the chairman and CEO of the Regional Municipality of York, Canada's sixth largest municipality, I thought "How to make our cities work" (Cover, Jan. 15) was right on target. But the coverage focused on our traditional central cities and virtually ignored the surrounding, suburban communities. In the Greater Toronto Area, the new amalgamated City of Toronto has less than half the total population. Not only do the suburbs have a majority of the GTA's population, they have about the same number of jobs as Toronto. Suburban jurisdictions also need schools, hospitals, community facilities and infrastructure for the hundreds of thousands of new residents and workers. Our streets, roads and highways are congested with bumper-to-bumper traffic, and there is currently no viable alternative to driving. Instead of wishing the problem away, York Region established a public-private partnership with some of the best Canadian and international transportation firms. To further, we have developed a three-phase business plan for bringing rapid transit to York Region. Rapid transit is not only essential to providing a viable alternative to driving, but it could be used as a tool to help prevent urban sprawl and encourage more efficient land use patterns. Although each phase of our system will produce benefits in soon as it is completed, it will take leadership and an assured funding stream from our provincial and federal partners to move to the level of rapid transit system the region, the GTA, the province and the nation so desperately needs.

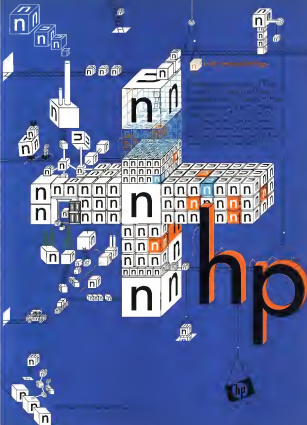
—**BOB FLACK, Newmarket, Ont.**

#### Forgotten wars

The article "War on the Reds" (History, Jan. 26) was a welcome lesson in a piece of history that has long followed in typical Canadian obscurity. But the insight into this encounter in Russia gives increased evidence to the righteous and takes by former prime minister Jean Chrétien in his refusal to commit Canadian soldiers to the mission of Iraq. Let's hope that in another 85 years Clinton's bold and just decision to stand against U.S. imperialism is better remembered than the Canadian involvement in the Russian civil war of 1918.

—**DAVID KROEBER, Toronto**

My late father was a sergeant major in the Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force sent



to Vladivostok in 1918-1919. I treasure his letters, and I gather that boredom was a big problem with the troops. That and the bitter cold. Longing to return home and with little to do, they produced plays and music. My dad was proud he did some acting with Raymond Massey and they became good friends. Thank you for shedding some light on this period in our history.

Mary Jackson, White Rock, B.C.

#### Fighting the weed

Thank you, Mr. Pearson ("How I prevailed on cigs," *Essay*, Jan. 26). I, too, have struggled with weeding. I have also known many people, non-smokers all, who have said, "How could you if you really wanted to?" I replied to one of these, "Look, if my addiction required a back alley purchase and taking a dirty needle in my arm, there would be agencies lined up around the block to help me. And I would get more sympathy than a recent widow." Because my addiction is legal, it is somewhat less than a hero's addiction. If the various levels of government really wanted a smoke-free nation, they would make rehab programs affordable and accessible.

Penny Williams, Calgary

I was addicted to nicotine for 30 years and have been a non-smoker for another 20. *Willpower* is the way to overcome any addiction. I quit cold turkey from 20 to 25 cigarettes a day and never looked back—and yes, you should feel guilty for setting a bad example to the youth of our nation.

Frank Kille, St. Catharines, Ont.

#### All workers do not die equal

Read MacQueen's article "Blood in the woods" (*Irish*, Columbia, Jan. 29) in note-

Many an independent artist has been discovered by way of a new fan through the magic of file sharing



Logging is a very difficult and dangerous type of work—but somebody has to do it.

he had not decided to become a logger. *Wille, Peter, Lunenburg, N.S.*

Yes, I do agree that logging is a very difficult and dangerous type of work. But somebody has to do it. If nobody is going into the woods to chop down trees, we will run out of paper—and then what will we do? Being careful and having the right training should be enough to save your life. There is a role in any type of work.

Leigh Savage, Canton, Mass.

#### Music blues

Perhaps one of the most beneficial aspects of file sharing is the music. I often see the opportunity to discover talented musicians who are otherwise neglected by profit-driven major record labels and the banality of most radio playlists. Much like a public lending library exposes its patrons to authors and encourages reading, file sharing encourages discovery in our musical experience that the recording industry seems to stifle ("The on-line bank over copyright," Jan. 12). Many an independent artist has been discovered by many a new fan through the magic of file sharing, leading to word-of-mouth support and purchases of CDs that won't be promoted by the major labels. Perhaps CD sales are diminishing because more discerning consumers are discovering a world

of musical excitement beyond the mass-produced formulae we study that passes for popular music these days, and are opting for quality rather than quantity.

Jan Kaszycki, Oshawa, Ont.

#### In praise of the living

The feature by John Gaddis in praise of the work of Aboriginal artist Norval Morrisseau is timely ("The poetry of Norval Morrisseau," *Art*, Jan. 26). Most times we celebrate our originals once they're correctly dead. Morrisseau's depictions are the most significant original examples of contemporary Canadian painting. I know.

Merrithon Jee, Oshawa, Ont.

#### Mad farmers

I wish to express our thanks to Peter Macnebridge for highlighting the plight of dairy producers that has resulted from BSE-related border closings ("Waiting for the call," *Macnebridge on the Record*, Jan. 12). We estimate that Canadian dairy producers have been losing \$1.5 million per day due to the inability to sell cull cows, calves and breeding stock. The livestock export sector has been completely shut down and we are beginning to lose infrastructure that has taken as over 50 years to build. The livestock genetics industry, including the expertise, artificial insemination and embryo transfer companies, are all affected.

Dick McInnis, Canadian Livestock Marketing Association, Toronto, Ont.

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## PUTTING YOUR OWN Health First



Between juggling child-care responsibilities, caring for elderly relatives, and work-related and outside-the-home—it's no wonder that women often place their own health down their list of priorities.

That often includes ignoring their risk of heart disease and stroke, including their own family history of these conditions, says the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Understanding your risk factor profile is vital—ask your doctor about the best ways to manage your risk at your next appointment. Be aware of the signs and symptoms of heart disease and stroke. According to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, many women disregard signs such as angina (a squeezing feeling in the chest), putting them at even greater risk. If you have been diagnosed with heart disease, review your treatment options.

By managing their risks and watching out for warning signs, women can play an active role in preventing heart disease and stroke.

For more information visit  
[www.heartandstroke.ca](http://www.heartandstroke.ca)



Finding answers. For life.

## MACLEAN'S BEHIND THE SCENES



### CANADIAN FILM WINNERS

Among this year's crop of nine Canadian features and 10 shorts at the Sundance Film Festival, two films won audience awards: *The Corporation*, for best world cinema documentary, and Quebec's *Seduction*. For best world cinema drama. "These prizes point up the two strengths of our Canadian films," says senior writer Brian D. Johnson (above). "We're still documentary innovators and Quebec is making witty, crowd-pleasing comedy-dramas that are finding an audience beyond its borders. It was a very good year for *Maclean's* to be at Sundance." This was the first year Canadian films have won awards at the festival.

Johnson, who literally wrote the book on the Toronto International Film Festival (*Drive Films, Wild Nights: 25 Years of Festival Fever*), has been attending Cannes and other film festivals for years, but it's the first time he's attended Sundance. He says he had been warned by other writers that Sundance was overcrowded, tough to negotiate and even dysfunctional. "But once you're there you realize why they keep going back: to be surprised by brave new indie cinema, especially the documentaries."

Robert Redford created Sundance in the Utah ski town of Park City 20 years ago. Grottoes and glaciers at an elevation of 7,000 feet replace the black ties and red carpets of Cannes. "For a film critic, festivals are the lifeblood of cinema. That's where we first see the emerging landscape of new movies that will be honoured a year later at the Oscars—such as *Lost in Translation*, *Mystic River*, *Monster* and *The Barbarian Invasions*, which just received two Oscar nominations."

This week, Johnson writes about the film awards season, Canada's place in it and Errol Morris's Oscar-nominated documentary, *The Fog of War*.

If you missed Brian D. Johnson's in-depth coverage of Sundance last week, you can still view it by visiting [www.macleans.ca/film](http://www.macleans.ca/film). While you're there, be sure to visit the Sundance photo gallery.

For further information about this article, contact [behindthescenes@macleans.ca](mailto:behindthescenes@macleans.ca).



Talk to your doctor about how to reduce your risk of heart disease. An important message from  Bayer







**murderer** McInnes denied the man was unarmed for the experience. The court found McInnes had no "lose motives," thus ruling out a murder conviction.

President Jacques Chirac's right-hand man, former French prime minister Alain Juppé, was found guilty in a bribery-financing scandal and barred from public office for 10 years, a decision that would keep him out of the next presidential election in 2007.

Denmark is investigating reports that an organized group is offering prison work on the web to detainees convicted of minor offences. The going fee was said to be \$320 a day to serve average clock time.

## BUSINESS

**ATLCO** Filing steel giant Sackco Inc. of Hamilton was granted utility protection as it seeks to trim pension payouts and reduce as many as 1,500 from its payroll in an attempt to compete with overseas companies and the ailing U.S. industry.

**WEB ATTACK** A computer virus called My-  
doom clogged the Internet and infected  
over 300 million e-mails, experts said. The  
virus—the fastest-spreading so far—was ap-  
parently aimed at a Utah software compa-  
ny which has angered the hacker commu-

nity by laying claim to certain parts of the free-spirited Linux operating system.

## CANADA

**ADAR** After months of denying the need for a full public inquiry, Ottawa defers almost face undannounced a judicial probe into the case of Maher Arar.



In September 2002, U.S. officials deport ed the Canadian to Syria, where he was jailed and, he says, tortured. For security reasons, much of the inquiry—to be headed by Ottomano

Associate Chief Justice Dennis O'Connor, who oversees the famed water scandal in Wilkes-Barre, Ore.—will be held in remembrance. But it is sure to examine the extent to which the RCMP was complicit in Anwar's disappearance.

**SAME SEX** DOMA is expanding its gay marriage reference to the Supreme Court of Canada, to ask whether the traditional definition of marriage—between a man and a woman—offends the charter of rights. Aside effect will likely be to put off a court hearing until after an expected federal election in the spring.

**SPANKING** The Supreme Court of Canada said it's all right for parents and, in some cases, teachers to discipline children with "reasonable" force and set strict guidelines. For parents, don't strike children under two, or teenagers, don't use implements like rulers or belts, and don't hit kids on the face or head. Teachers are not to hit students, but can use reasonable force in restraining them.

**KHADR** Pakistan confirmed that Egyptian-born Canadian Ahmed Sad Khadr, an anti-warrior who authorities accuse of ties to al Qaeda, was killed in a gun battle last year with security forces. His 34-year-old son was severely injured in the fight. The family is asking the Ottawa court to return to Toronto.

**BODY FARM** Police uncovered DNA from three more women at the Port Coquitlam pig farm owned by accused murderer Robert Pickton. Three are unidentified.

**LETIMER** Robert Letimer has reportedly given up on the idea of asking Ottawa for leniency in what he called the mercy killing of his severely disabled daughter. He has served three years of a life sentence with no chance of parole for 10 years, something the Supreme Court of Canada said was not disproportionate under the circumstances.



WALLOPED

A wicked winter storm that stretched from Sicily to Newfoundland claimed at least 44 lives, 80 people, and several ships during a winter storm warning that hit in London, Calif., this Friday. The storm hit the ship from the west with temperatures that reached -10° C, while heavy snow poured through Central and Atlantic Canada.

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## Mansbridge on the Record



## WHAT IT TAKES TO LEAD

A good politician offers direction and motivation. But we want still more.

AT FIRST, I was stunned by the comment. It was unexpected, but these days in politics, you like the odd surprise, because most things seem so scripted. The comment came from the web of one of the candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination hours before voters went to the polls in the New Hampshire primary. The interviewer wanted to know whether she thought George W. Bush's leadership deserved a second term. The wife had this reply: "You know, I don't think anybody really deserves to be president, if you really think of the responsibilities."

It wasn't said flippantly. In fact, Jeanne Hérité Kerry had probably thought about it quite a bit. She'd discussed it with her husband, Massachusetts Senator John Kerry, she'd run through these days in the race to end Bush's presidency. Hérité Kerry is the heroine here on the Hérité Forum—a pile of cash that could easily be split 50/50 and still represent more than some senators' GOP Green Card. She probably knows a thing or two about what makes good leadership. She led on the table something we all might consider: what do we want from our leaders, and do we expect too much?

Transferring questions to a time when lead crisp news and elections are on the horizon on both sides of the border. I'm writing, too, because the issue of "qualification" has become important in both countries. In the U.S., two Democrats, Howard Dean and John Edwards, have been criticised for not having enough foreign policy experience, while a third, Gen. Wesley Clark, has been told in efforts that he has too much. In Canada, Terry Clement and Jack Layton are

said to not have enough "national" experience, Heléna Strohach has no "political" background. Even Paul Martin isn't spared, as critics argue he has no qualifications other than knowing how to slash budgets. Those assessments aren't fair, yet they're made often, and some voters are probably influenced by them. It leaves one wondering what a candidate has to do to satisfy all needs. After all, I'm not aware of any course entitled "How to be a president" or "30 steps to becoming a prime minister."

Defining strong leadership isn't complicated. Merri describes it as the ability to inspire confidence, to motivate, to know where you want to go, then to convince others to follow. But we want more. The President, Hérité Kerry suggests, carries responsibilities so vast that no one person should expect to have all that thrust upon them. Can anyone be properly qualified for such a position?

My favourite movies about leadership paint about people who could easily answer "Yes" to that question. They had the qualities for their moment. Churchill's "we will never surrender" inspired courage in the face of overwhelming odds, and his use of "we" showed the inclusive nature of the rallying cry. Other examples include Mandela's wisdom, Gandhi's patience, Sir John A. Macdonald's knack for finding compromise. Then there was Alexander the Great. More than 2,000 years ago, he led his army through deserts, terrain and some of the fiercest wars they ran out of water and conditions became critical. Suddenly, the story goes, a swirling mission seemed with a single flask of water. Alexander held it up before his troops—then turned it upside down and watched as the water disappeared into the hot sand. "It's no use for one to drink when many are thirsty," he said. No wonder they followed him whenever he took them. ☐

**“The President has so much to oversee that no one should have all that thrust upon them. Can anyone be qualified for such a job?”**

Peter Mansbridge is CBC Correspondent of CBC International News and Anchor at the National. To comment: [letterstoeditor@cbc.ca](mailto:letterstoeditor@cbc.ca)

## Passages

**HONoured** Former Saskatchewan premier Roy Romanow, 64, writer Guy Vanderhaeghe, 52, sportsman John May, 70, and long-time Maclean's cartoonist Roy Peterson, 63, were among the 94 new inductees to the Order of Canada. Among those devoted to the level of Coogan was Roy to philanthropist Anne Schreier, 76, and for her great-grandson Veronica Tennant, 57.

**RETURNED** After nearly four months of missing and surveillance, Adamo Thushen star Terry Hootley, 23, played his first NHL game since the Sept. 28 car accident that claimed the life of teammate Dan Snyder. The Snyder family has been strongly supporting Hootley's comeback. He still faces charges of vehicular homicide.



**BORN** Singer-songwriter Chantal Kowalski and rocker husband Raine Maida of Our Lady Peace had their first child, Rowan.

**CHD** Internationally known psychologist Yechiel Goldberg, 42, who left Toronto for Israel eight years ago to counsel troubled young people, was one of 10 killed during the suicide bombing of a Jerusalem bus. Toronto-born photographer Steve Brooks was struck in 1975 as one of the top 10 female photographers of all time. She died in 90, in Mexico, where she had been living with her artist husband Leonard.

Jack Paar, the quick-witted comic who starred late night with *The Tonight Show* in 1957, died at his home in Greenwich, Conn., after a long illness. He was 88.

**ALUNG** B.C.'s fiery health planning minister Sindi Harkness, 45, was diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukemia. Doctors said it was treatable. She was elected to a junior portfolio.

**POISED** Milwaukee police officers Duncan Gussow and Gabriel Bagdasarian, arrested to 60 and 30 days house arrest for beating up three suspected drug-dealers last year, were freed from the force. Four others involved in the incident were suspended for 30 days.

To 12 year old Lisa, he was simply 11 year old Jenny.



25% of kids have been asked to meet someone they've only met online. That is an eye-opening statistic. One that underlines how important it is that parents get involved. While every day, we enjoy the many benefits of the Internet, that doesn't mean it is risk-free. The Media Awareness Network can help you teach your kids to recognize the risks to help them stay safe online. To find out how, please visit [www.bewebaware.ca](http://www.bewebaware.ca)





# TRAGEDY IN KABUL

Tensions rise as a Canadian soldier is killed amid a spate of suicide attacks

ON JAN. 27, in Canadian soldiers left Camp Fellen for a routine morning patrol of the streets of Kabul. A short distance outside the camp gates, they slowed down to run a gate around an obstacle in the roadway. At that moment, a man approached their two unarmored Jeep-like vehicles and detonated an explosive device, believed to have been a 60-mm mortar shell, strapped to his chest. The blast killed 26-year-old Cpl Jamie Murphy, wounded three of his comrades and injured eight civilian bystanders. Mullah Hakeem Latifi, speaking on behalf of the Taliban, claimed responsibility. The next day—as Canadians were conducting a heavy memorial service for Murphy—Taliban fighters struck again. A second suicide bomber detonated his explosives packed to his chest



LEFT: Joe Penhox, 36, of Pemberton, B.C.; far left, Cpl. Jeremy Macdonald, 28, of Burnaby, B.C.; and Cpl. Richard Newman, 22, of Hamilton, N.S., were injured in the bombing

a Land Rover in Kabul's eastern suburbs, killing one British soldier and wounding four others.

Once again, Mullah Latifi claimed credit on behalf of the Taliban. "We are compelled," he said in a statement, "to attack the foreigners who defend our country, religion and honour." The acts of terror targeting the

International Security and Assistance Force are a relatively new tactic in Afghanistan. For the past two years, Kabul has been considered a fairly secure zone for the 5,000 ISAF troops, including the Canadian contingent of about 1,700, stationed in the Afghan capital. With the exception of a suicide bomb last June, which killed four German soldiers

and wounded 29 others, ISAF casualties have been the result of accidents and landmines.

For the Canadians, last week's attack occurred in the middle of a major troop rotation. The Royal Canadian Regiment, 3rd Battalion Group, has completed its six-month tour of duty and is in the process of being replaced by a like number of troops from the Quebec-based Royal 22nd Régiment. With so little time left in Afghanistan—Murphy, of Conception Harbour, Nfld., was due to return to Canada on Feb. 9—soldiers were emboldened by the incident and many of them began questioning whether the casualties could have been prevented. Speculated why, in light of the Operation Enduring Freedom, Cpl. Robert Short of Fredericton and Cpl. Baltha's (pronounced as O'Brien) mean announced him, that type of vehicle was still being employed on routine patrols. "The scary thing we're vulnerable because they set us out there all the time," complained one soldier.

Other troops—all speaking on condition their names not be used—felt that warning signs had been ignored, and that the Rules of Engagement employed by the Canadian contingents were too restrictive. On Dec. 28, after five members of the Afghan Special Police were killed in a suicide bombing, Canadian commanders in Kabul urged—unsuccessfully—a change in their operational intrusions. Instead of being required to first rack their weapons before engaging a possible enemy, the commanders wanted the soldiers to be able to patrol with live rounds chambered in their rifles. That would have allowed them to quickly fire at a suspected bomber even if a weapon was not immediately visible. (Other soldiers in the ISAF, particularly the British, employ such robust rules of engagement.) "While this sounds rather drastic, it may have made a difference in the Murphy incident," said one soldier. "Others around me are most concerned about the potential fallout of Canadian soldiers choosing an 'innocent person'."

However, if the successful Taliban attack against the British Land Rover patrol indicates, better-protected vehicles and greater



The general store prominently displays a picture of Murphy

Murphy's two girls and two boys, left in 1997 to join the army.

Taped to the cash register in Lacey's general store, there's a photograph of Cpl. Murphy in full uniform. It's been three since Murphy, a member of the Royal Canadian Regiment, was sent to Afghanistan in August. The print news that he was killed last week in Kabul has put Conception Harbour in the spotlight.

Lacey has tried quickly of the outside attention. In the Landmark bar, no one wants to talk about Jamie or his family, except to offer briefly that they're well respected. But store owner Larry Lacey, 65, is talking. He holds out a hand, big high, and says he

## A HOMETOWN MOURNS

at the end of the wharf in Conception Harbour, Nfld., a single navigation buoy sign red into the night, reflecting off the spill harbor where fishing boats sit tied up and dark. It's a town people have always had to leave to find work like nearby Harbour Mien, it has a history of high steel ironworkers, people who loved to contribute projects ranging from Halifax's suspension bridges to the towers of the World Trade Center. Jamie Murphy, the youngest of Alice and Norman

can remember Jamie Murphy coming to the store "when he was that tall." Lacey continues, "Every time he came home on leave, he came in to see me."

Lacey fields a phone call from Alberta, from another farming Conception Harbour native looking for information. "Get out, very sad here," he bellows into the phone. Lacey's still back from visiting Jamie's parents in their small, green-and-white house, the Murphys, who are retired. He has been calling on for years. "They are the best," Lacey says. "Good people, never get left out."

ROBERT MANNING

response times are still no different against Taliban. By attacking the ISAF forces in Kabul, the Taliban seem to be trying to isolate the foreign troops from the Afghan population. If they are successful in forcing ISAF soldiers to bunker down inside their armed camps, that will seriously hamper any attempts by the international community to win over the hearts and minds of the local population.

The Taliban may have achieved their initial goal. In response to the suicide bombing, ISAF commanders imposed new security restrictions. Foot patrols have been curtailed, and only heavily armed vehicles—not the 150-size to be used until the onset of the offensive can be demonstrated. This virtual lockdown of foreign

troops has left many of the international civilian workers in Kabul concerned for their own safety. Phil Lancaster, a former Canadian Forces major who served as Gen. Romeo Dallaire's aide during the 1994 Rwanda massacre, now works as a UN official in the Afghan capital. He was openly critical of the ISAF decision to withdraw into their protected camps. "Tragic as the attacks were, the aim of us are now left without any security still except the largely (neg. Afghan police)," said Lancaster. "The civilian members of the mission carry on while our brave soldiers bunker down out of sight." The question now is whether the international community has the resolve to complicate what they started in Afghanistan.

## CANADIANS TO BUSH:

HOPE  
YOU  
LOSE,  
EH

According to a new poll, only 15 per cent of us would vote for the President, writes JONATHAN GATEHOUSE

**MAYBE IT'S THAT SMUG LITTLE SMILE.** His penchant for fantastically expensive military photo-ops. Or the swaggering, belt-bitching walk that cries out for a pair of swinging saloon doors. And though, God knows, we have too many of our own syntactically challenged politicians to be caring stones, shouldn't the leader of the free world know that "misunderestimate" isn't a word? Yes, we're evilling, but clearly there is something about George W. Bush that gets under the skin of Canadians. After all, vehemently disagreeing with the policies of American presidents is almost a national pastime. There has to be another explanation for our extreme reaction, the desire albeit in the land to see him turfed from office. That and the unprintable segment

about him and the horse he rode in on. Even before we knew whom he will be running against this fall, Canadians have made their decision. Only 15 per cent, according to an exclusive new Maclean's poll, would definitely cast a ballot for Bush if they had the opportunity. And if American voters aren't evenly divided—some 50 per cent approve of his performance in the White House and his running neck and neck with his likely Democratic challenger—there is no such dividing on this side of the border. Just 12

per cent of us feel Canada is better off since he took office, and only a third of respondents will admit to being the world's most powerful man, even just a little bit.

It's an antipathy that appears to extend far beyond our traditional coolness towards Republicans, says Michael Marcolini, chairman of Pollara Inc., the Toronto-based opinion research firm that conducted the national survey. With a political spectrum that divides to the left of America's—legislated same-sex marriage and the promise of faster cost

There's something about him that gets under the skin

of us here being the most recent, and in some quarters, celebrated examples—we've generally perceived Democratic presidents as being more in tune with our values. But where Ronald Reagan and Bush the elder were at least grudgingly respected, Dubya is decidedly not. Despite a spate of polls showing a broad desire for improved relations with the United States after the often rocky Clinton years, there is a sense that this administration isn't one we want to do business with. "These numbers really show the difficulty for Paul Martin," says Marcolini, the long-time pollster for the federal Liberal party. "He has to get closer to the Americans, but he can't get too close to George Bush. It's a fine balance." The intense sympathy Canadians felt following the attacks of 9/11—something





# 'IN HIS FACE'

Democrats are desperate to beat Bush and take back the White House. But is John Kerry really the answer? asks PAUL WELLS.

**IN POLITICS** just as in real life, events have a way of messing up the best laid plans. U.S. Democrats aren't surprised to have a clear front-runner as the state-by-state battle to win the party's presidential nomination picks up steam. They're just surprised by who it is.

Only a month ago, the runaway favorite was Howard Dean, the nondescript former Vermont governor who had almost magically transformed himself from a populist fly-by-night and Internet fundraising juggernaut. There was talk of Dean "running the table," picking up victory after victory in the night-fire succession of caucuses and primary elections the states use to pick delegates to the Democratic nominating convention in July. And if Dean stumbled, surely the party would coalesce around an anti-Dean, a southerner, a charmer, an establishmenter man to confront the noisy, cynical, anti-establishment Dean mob. A war hero like retired Gen. Wesley Clark, for instance. Or a liberal, sunny fellow like John Edwards, the North Carolina trial lawyer turned media sensation.

But John Kerry? An Ivy League who married a Kennedy heiress, he's no populist. A veteran Massachusetts lawmaker who's raised the possibility of simply conceding the state of the old Confederacy to the Republicans, he's no southerner. And despite his amazing biography—a Vietnam war hero who came home to become a leader of the anti-Vietnam power movement—he is no charmer, a downspout with a mopping tenderness for child and equine alike.

**ONLY a month ago, the runaway favorite was Dean, the former Vermont governor who had almost magically made himself into a firebrand**

Only a month ago the party establishment had all but written Kerry off. Then he won the Iowa caucuses on Jan. 19. And he whipped Dean handily eight days later in New Hampshire. Suddenly, Kerry was the guy with momentum, the filibustered Mr. No, and the other candidates are sipping out their once-fervently prepared playbooks as they try to figure out how to stop him.

What happened? A few days of interviews with Democrats in South Carolina—one of seven states that were to hold primaries or caucuses on Feb. 3—suggests a partial answer. The party is groping with the question that arises in this year: How do we stop George W. Bush?

Dean Taylor is a bearded Vermonteer who came down to Columbia, S.C., to join his daughter, Laura Goodrich, on Dean's campaign train in South Carolina. As he watched CNN's coverage of the New Hampshire returns in a downtown hotel lobby bar, Taylor, who is retired but still consults for his former company, IBM, had little good to say about the other Democratic candidates. But one course unerringly the party's fiery froth.

"Every one of us has a common theme, which is to stop Bush," Taylor said. "We gotta get the son of a bitch out of the White



There was talk of Dean (bottom) 'running the table' until Kerry's support coalesced

House. Because we can't afford to have him appoint any Supreme Court justices. Can't afford four more years of his policies. It's a question of, who do we think is the best guy? And just think Howard Dean is the guy who can get in his face," Taylor continued. Clearly the image appealed to him. "And let me tell you something. We need somebody who can get right-up-in-his-face!" "Make him cry," Goodrich interjected. "And let him back to Texas," she giggled in the thought of it.

"And let me tell you something else," Taylor said. "You can quote this. The last conclusion I made to the Dean campaign was for \$142. You know why? Because \$142 is the price of a one-way bus ticket from Washington, D.C., to Crawford, Texas. And you know something else? The busstop at Waco and I've had to wait the rest of the way!"

Every faction in a party has its own micro culture. The Dean group warbling the New Hampshire return looked a bit like an alarm in meeting of a campus computer club and smelled of cigarette smoke. A few blocks away at a rite and chicken joint, supporters of John Edwards gathered in a room that had the stony smell of self-consciously impeccable personal hygiene. Edwards supporters, by the look of them, came from good families, shop at J. Crew and go out for evening club. But the Edwards base had simply reached a different answer to the same question the Democrats were posing: I asked Jennifer Paul, a student at the Univ. of South Carolina, what she thought of Bush. She made a face. "Not very much [don't trust him]. And every time I hear him speak he looks like a big idiot."

Her friend Timothy Powell said he was backpacking through Europe last year when the U.S. led war in Iraq was underway. In Panama, Kosovo, he and his buddy put Canadian flags on their backpacks to stay out of trouble with the locals. "It's embarrassing, but it's a pretty good statement on the way the rest of the world views America," he said. So why Edwards? "I'm signing up at night wing liberal Democrats," Powell said. "But I'm also pretty worried about someone like Dean being elected. He suffers from angry man syndrome."

Edwards, on the other hand, is a decent moral advocate of the happy mass sym-



drove. He never tires of reminding crowds that he brings a "positive, uplifting message." For this he has been something of a media darling. The *New Yorker* magazine carried its glowing portrait of him nearly two years ago. Even after he fell from a strong second-place finish in Iowa to a rough go with Clark for a distant third in New Hampshire, the *New York Times* said he "remains an intriguing wild card."

If this were a contest to pick the oddest guy there wouldn't be any contest. Kerry and Edwards have both published books to coincide with the campaign. Kerry's *A Call to Service*, a slog through oratory, policy prescriptions and safe rhetoric ("I was brought up to owe about the big issues... [Kerry and his fellow Vietnam vets] came from different states and backgrounds, but all that really mattered was that we were all from America").

Edwards' book, *Four Truths* (written "with" a professorial writer, John Archard), is on the other hand both a canny political play and a dynamic read. Edwards made his fortune and his name as a plaintiff trial lawyer, a not altogether popular species because too vested in the tens of millions now everyone's insurance premiums, and he had for rich companies to get rid of, and generally put a third of the awarded damages in the pockets of lawyers like John Edwards. If Edwards becomes a senator, the Republicans will surely go after his record. So *Four Truths* is out to inoculate Edwards by describing four of his biggest victories in heartening orations on behalf of the little guy. It's a genuine page-turner, with some court-room scenes right out of a John Grisham novel.

It is, perhaps, one measure of how topy-turvy this campaign has become that the well-known Grisham spent last Wednesday even-

ing Kerry and the other hopefuls, pictured at a debate in Greenville, S.C., still face a long hard fight before the Democratic champion is chosen

**If the Democrats want a candidate who can stand up to Bush, Kerry is happy to oblige with high House rhetoric that has become a campaign centerpiece**

ing South Carolina campaigning for John Kerry. Far more significant is a state where about half the primary voters will be African-American. Representative Jim Clyburn, the state's most prominent black politician, endorsed Kerry too. And perhaps more surprising of all for Edwards and Clark, the other southern-state candidates (Alabama), a midwestern state has suddenly usurped South Carolina's role as the most important battleground on Feb. 3.

Nobody had really bothered to campaign in Missouri because everyone assumed its favorite son, Dick Gephardt, would take it. But Gephardt quit the campaign the day after his humiliating fourth-place finish in Iowa. So daily Missouri, the biggest Feb. 3 primary with 74 pledged delegates up for grabs, has become the big target of the moment.

South Carolina doesn't like to be ignored. Kerry launched his campaign here, in front of an almost entirely blacked-out Charleston, but has badly been back. He has and it would be a "mistake" to assume Democrats must take a few southern states if they want to win the White House. It is hard to see why that's a mistake. After 1960 the only Democrats to reach the White House—Lyndon



## SAFE KEEPING

The Facts About Deposit Insurance in Canada

A financial planning resource to understand how your money is protected by the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation

**Y**ou may not realize it but when you open an account or make a deposit with a Canadian bank, trust company or loan company, you may receive something extremely valuable – without even asking.

This is deposit insurance, which protects more than \$455 billion in Canadians' deposits today. It applies to eligible deposits in the financial institutions that are members of the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation (CDIC), a federal Crown corporation that has administered the program since 1967. It covers the eligible deposits you make in banks, trust companies and loan companies, up to \$60,000, should one of these institutions fail or go bankrupt. Insurable deposits include products such as savings and chequing accounts, term deposits and GICs – as well as eligible deposits held within Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs) or Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs).

Only eligible financial products offered by a CDIC member institution are insured. For example, mutual funds are not insured by CDIC.

Being aware of what is – and what isn't – insured can help you make better informed decisions about how and where you deposit your money.

### USE THIS GUIDE TO:

- Recognize which of your deposits are or are not insured by CDIC;
- Learn how to get additional information.

### INSIDE:

**KNOWING YOUR COVERAGE  
FINANCIAL PLANNING MATTERS  
YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED**

CDICSADC



## Are Your Deposits Protected?

*Find out which of your savings and investments are covered by deposit insurance*

Deposit insurance provides protection for your eligible deposits held at member institutions of the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation (CDIC). This includes banks, trust companies and loan companies that accept deposits. If any of these institutions should ever fail, you would be reimbursed by CDIC for eligible deposits of up to \$60,000.

### ✓ ELIGIBLE DEPOSITS FOR CDIC'S COVERAGE:

- Savings and chequing accounts
- Term deposits, such as guaranteed investment certificates (GICs) with terms of five years or less
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### ✗ NOT ELIGIBLE FOR CDIC'S COVERAGE:

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- Foreign currency deposits, such as U.S. dollars
- Term deposits maturing in more than five years
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- Treasury bills
- Stocks
- Mortgage investments

### ✓ CHECK THE REGISTER

Want to know for sure whether your deposits are eligible for insurance by CDIC? Ask to see your financial institution's Deposit Register. This is a document that lists all products eligible for coverage at your financial institution. The register is available through all local branches. It may also be available on your financial institution's Web site.



## Practical Matters

*Here is some useful information on deposit insurance to consider in your financial planning:*

### IF YOU HAVE SEVERAL ACCOUNTS:

CDIC's basic deposit insurance protection covers up to a maximum \$60,000 per depositor at each financial institution. The following five types of deposits accounts are treated separately, and would ALL be covered up to \$60,000 each, even when held within a single financial institution:

- Savings and chequing accounts, term deposits and deposits such as GICs
- Deposits held in trust for someone else
- Deposits held jointly in the name of two or more people
- Eligible deposits held within a Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP)
- Eligible deposits held within a Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF)

### IF YOU HAVE JOINT ACCOUNTS:

It is common for spouses, common law partners or other family members to hold joint savings or deposit accounts. Deposits held in this way are insured separately from deposits held by individual with the same CDIC member financial institution. For example, a married or common law couple may have individual accounts at a member bank, each eligible for up to \$60,000 of protection. Their joint account at the same institution would also provide them another \$60,000 of combined protection.

### IF YOU HAVE RRSPs

Keep in mind that a Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) is a portfolio within which you can include many different kinds of financial products and investments. CDIC's deposit insurance applies only to eligible deposits held within the plan, not the RRSP as a whole. For instance, GICs and five-year term deposits are eligible for coverage, mutual funds, stocks or bonds are not.

### IF \$60,000 IS NOT ENOUGH:

If depositing funds in more than one CDIC member institution, your eligible deposits are protected up to the maximum coverage of \$60,000 per financial institution. This can also be achieved with deposits held in self-directed Registered Retirement Savings Plans. Within a self-directed RRSP you may hold term deposits and GICs purchased from any number of member institutions, each qualifying for the \$60,000 maximum coverage.



## Calculating Your Coverage

Use our online Deposit Insurance Calculator to determine how much of your savings and investments are insured by the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation. Go to [www.cdic.ca](http://www.cdic.ca) and click on the link to the interactive calculator. The calculator will guide you through a series of questions and then produce a report showing your deposit insurance coverage based on information you provide. Results are confidential.

Where to get more answers!  
Visit [www.cdic.ca](http://www.cdic.ca) to learn more about how deposit insurance works for you.

## Your Questions Answered

Answers to some common questions Canadians have about deposit insurance:

### Why would I need deposit insurance? My bank isn't in trouble.

Canada's confidence in a strong financial system is well-justified. But it's partly due to the contribution of the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation and other institutions to the overall stability of the system. This industry-wide insurance plan ensures consumers are protected against the risk of failures. And it also ensures the financial system remains stable, should any individual financial institution fail. For instance, since its founding in 1967, CDIC has provided protection to more than two million depositors at 45 fail times.

### Which financial institutions are CDIC members?

Membership in the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation applies to banks, trust companies and loan companies, in addition to associations governed by the Cooperative Credit Association Act. It does not include credit unions, credit unions, insurance companies or brokerages. However, while those latter institutions are not CDIC members, many participate in their own similar protection plans for deposit holders.

### Is every financial product offered by CDIC member institutions insurable by CDIC?

No. Not every financial product offered by a CDIC member institution is eligible for deposit insurance. For example, money invested in mutual funds is not covered by deposit insurance, nor are stocks, bonds, mortgage investments or deposits in foreign currencies.

### What if two financial institutions merge?

There's been speculation recently in Canada about the possibility of financial institutions merging. If two CDIC member institutions were to amalgamate, insured deposits made prior to the amalgamation would continue to be covered by CDIC separately until a withdrawal was made on a term deposit matured. For example, if you had \$60,000 in insured deposits at each of two CDIC member institutions that merged, the money would remain fully insured after the amalgamation—totaling \$120,000 in protection.

### Are deposits in "Internet" banks covered?

Members of the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation include financial institutions that offer online and telephone alternatives to traditional branch banking. Ask to see your financial institution's deposit register, which lists all of its products that are eligible for deposit insurance through CDIC. Or go to CDIC's Web site at [www.cdic.ca](http://www.cdic.ca) where you'll find an up-to-date list of CDIC member institutions.

## About the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation

- Established in 1967 as a federal Crown corporation.
- Has close to 98 members, including Canadian banks, trust companies and loan companies that accept deposits.
- Deposit insurance is funded by premiums paid by member institutions and receives no funding from taxpayers.
- Has successfully dealt with the failure of 43 financial institutions in Canada since its founding. The most recent failure was in 1994, when 2,600 depositors with the Security Home Mortgage Corporation received insurance payments within three weeks.

## Cover | >

Johnson, Janine Carver, Bill Clinton—were southerners who carried some southern traits. Oddly, Kerry's slothful makes him irresistible, like a guy playing hard to get. But Dick Harper, a former state Democratic chairman, was still as the newspaper almost every day last week, pleading with Kerry to pay more votes.

Meanwhile, poor Edwards—the North Carolina senator born in South Carolina, the son of a son of the South—found himself in a tiny town in South Carolina: South University the day after the New Hampshire primary, speaking to a few dozen students. Does, too, has not seen the end of his problems. His campaign moved an astonishing \$846 million, much of it on the Internet, but seems to have spent almost all of it. Joe Trippi, the architect of the Dean-driven boom, quit the campaign in a huff when Dean brought in a new guy to add much-needed discipline the day after New Hampshire. Dean became the only top tier candidate to forgo television advertising in any of the Feb. 3 states, preferring to match his dwindling resources for later, and presumably friendlier, elections in states like Michigan and Washington.

If the overarching question of this primary season is how to beat Bush, the new question is why do so many Democrats think the answer is John Kerry? The answer can't be his persona, which are a challenge to decipher (he's never supported the use of force in Iraq, but comments that was an endorsement of Bush's war). It can't be entirely his record: he was a lieutenant but Clinton was a general. Some observers are starting to suspect it's his answer. If Democrats want somebody to get in Bush's face then Kerry, a seemingly flexible man, is happy to oblige. He has made testosterone-soaked high noon rhetoric a consequence of the campaign. Bush wants to define national security? Kerry makes his persona even more colorful and, looser, "Bring-it-on!" When he popped up in Missouri, he reminded everyone that he's known as the "Shoe Me" state and added, "And we're going to show George Bush the door!" Chastantly, reactively, Democrats appear to be deciding that what they need most isn't a pacifist to confront the warlike Bush, or a general to disarm him, or even a seafarer to move his electoral base. What they've selected—like needs, anyway, in this crazy race, who knows about next week—is a tough guy to stand up to him.

**"WE gotta get that son of a bitch out," one Democrat lamented. "We can't afford to have him spend any more Supreme Court justices."**

## DON'T STAND SO CLOSE

IF THERE WAS a House Committee on anti-Canadian activities, given members called before it would be asked the following question: "Have you ever fished, golfed, or sang sentimental Irish ballads with a United States president?" Seen through the anti-American lens, getting along too well with the president of the White House is highly suspicious behavior for any prime minister. And since that lens tends to view politics from the left, all the worse if the president's question happens to be a Republican. So Prime Minister Paul Martin is walking a fine line. He has plenty in common with George W. Bush, a fellow former politician and former businessman. All the more reason to stay a touch aloof.

Which is precisely what Martin has been doing, with Bush's apparent co-operation. Their first meeting was carefully staged on national turf in Monterrey, Mexico. No chemistry got together for Bush's Texas ranch. And no sudden reversal of his boycott of visits to Ottawa, which would have invited awkward comparisons between Jean Chrétien's defiant independence from U.S. policy and Martin's emerging closer relationship. Martin sent a clear signal by asking United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan to come to Ottawa before formally meeting Bush. "We spent a lot of time in Canada talking about our relationship with the United States," Martin said. "That's important but, fundamentally, our relationship with the rest of the world, and how that world works, is going to be the determining factor as to whether our children and their children after them enjoy the same quality of life that we do."



These two have much in common, but his elusive national goal, Kerry sounds like Layton?

In one respect, Bush's unpopularity in Canada works Martin's favor. The comparison makes it easy for the former minister to look especially pragmatic to the liberal-minded Canadian electorate. But John Kerry, now the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination, is another matter. Consider the salvo from Kerry's camp after winning big in New Hampshire last week: "I have a message for the influence peddlers, for the pollsters, the PRs, the big drug companies that get in on the drug, the big oil and the special interests who now call the White House their home. We're coming, you're going—and don't let the door hit you on the way out."

That's not the references to health-care management organizations and the White House, and that could be NDP leader Jack Layton's toughest one of his angry politics-of-privilege attacks on Martin. Judging from his recent rhetoric, Kerry could shift the North American political debate in a direction less comfortable for all politically sensitive power-politics millionaires in high office. JOHN GREGG

# DO N'T CRY FOR ME, ARGENTINA

Jewish families from Buenos Aires are finding a new home in Winnipeg

Winnipeg is the buzz around Jewish circles in Buenos Aires these days. Everyone seems to have a friend or relative already living there, or moving soon. The reason is *Grua Winnipeg*, a community project started back in 1996 that aims to renew the city's aging and shrinking Jewish population by bringing in young families from abroad. The organization provides potential immigrants with help in applying for visas and, once in Canada, in looking for houses, jobs and schools. While the project and the city it serves were previously little-known in Argentina, all that changed when the company collapsed in December 2000 and people began looking for a way out. Over the past 10 months, correspondent David Sax documented the efforts of some Buenos Aires families to come to Canada. His report:

**THE LOBBY** of the Canadian embassy in Buenos Aires began filling up at midday. As a half-dozen families milled in the corridor, the lineup for visas snakes onto the street. Gabriel and Mercedes Schapman are waiting patiently. Clutching passports and photos of themselves and their three children, the Jewish couple are dressed more neatly than the person down the line they have visited here—after almost a year, they are hopeful this day will be their last trip to the building.

Gabriel, a 47-year-old entrepreneur, steps up to the window and hands his papers to the immigration officer. On this bright September day, Mercedes, 43 and working in the media, is the happiest she has been in many months. Both are sure that visa application will be approved; they have already sold their house and shipped off their possessions. They know they don't have the proper certificate for the year Gabriel lived in Spain during the '70s—the Spanish embassy has been too busy to provide it—but they are confident such a small detail will be overlooked.

When Gabriel returns to Mercedes's side, however, the look on his face tells a different story. "No vice," she asks. Gabriel sighs

and hugs his wife. Winnipeg will have to wait once again.

**FIVE MONTHS** before that visit to the one lonely Gabriel and Mercedes sat in Eduardo and Olga Sawilowsky's house, a modest place, but one whose windows, front and multiple back, were meant to let in the growing crime rate. Lured by a common hope of emigrating to Winnipeg, the families had



At the Sawilowsky home during packing

become friends, meeting on weekends for a traditional Argentine barbecue. Talking in hushed tones, Eduardo, an accountant for a baby-diaper manufacturer, explained why he wanted to leave. "Things were bad in 2000 and I thought it would go worse in the future," he said. "We live, well, hardly in misery—I have a good job and a comfortable house. But there's no hope politically. And I wanted more about growing old in this place."

The Sawilowskys went on to receive their visas, and moved last summer. Today, they are still settling into Winnipeg's rhythms, one week after arriving; they bought a car and they are now looking to upgrade from their apartment to a house. Their two boys, 23-year-old Duarte and 18-year-old Sergio, are enrolled in university and high school, both earning top marks last semester, while Olga is teaching ESL classes each day and putting her entrepreneurial ability to use in a local bakery, part of a work experience program. Eduardo landed an accounting position with the Manitoba Conservatory of Music and Arts. "It's not so easy," he says. "Getting accredited by professional organizations took a lot of time and money and has been very disappointing." But facing -40°C wind chill on his way to work has not deterred him. Enthusiasm for Winnipeg, An and penitence—barbecue music—believed content with hamburgers and hot dogs versus Argentina's famous beef. "It doesn't miss anything but family in Argentina," he says. "We have everything we need here."

**FOR SOME**, Buenos Aires can become a sufficing place to live. About 12 million

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Gabriel and Marcela Schuyman with their children at their Winnipeg apartment

residents are pushed into concrete canyons of apartments. The din of traffic and the smell of exhaust is overwhelming—it is a hell of a city. And while cooking, Buenos Aires is also dangerous: after the economic break down, poverty and crime have soared. All though the overall situation has improved recently, half of the population still live below the poverty line, and a fifth are unemployed. Children watching through trash in a common sight. Kidnappings and muggings, once rare, continue to escalate. Gabriel, Marcela and their children have first-hand experience with that. Robbed at knifepoint during a seaside vacation last April, they were unhurt but shaken, and the incident only strengthened their resolve to move.

Argentina's Jewish population is the largest in South America. Thanks to a largely open-door policy, successive waves of Jewish immigrants from Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries built a community that numbered some 392,000 in the mid '70s.

It has endured brutal periods of anti-Semitism notably during the military dictatorship between 1976 and 1983, when it was followed by two major terrorist attacks against Jewish institutions in the mid '70s. The worsening economic crisis has pushed the community, estimated to now number 200,000, to its emotional and financial brink. In 2002 alone, some 13,000 Jews left Argentina, many heading to Israel. But 78 came to Winnipeg, a number that increased to 220 last year. This year,

**AFTER the economic collapse in December 2001, poverty and crime soared. Canadian Jews became a hot item.**

Grow Winnipeg expects some 90 Argentinian Jews to move to the city.

In stark contrast to Buenos Aires, the Manitoba capital (pop. 678,000) offers relative peace and quiet in a stable political and economic environment. That's what lured Gabriel's maid after an exploratory visit in the summer of 2001. He arrived late at night, and was surprised by the reception in the bed and breakfast where he stayed. "There was a sign saying, 'We waited for you, but went to sleep. Take any room you want,'" he recalled. "It was strange that people would just leave a door open for me. It was a great first impression."

At the helm of Grow Winnipeg's immigration efforts, Evelyn Hoch and Faye Rosenberg-Cohen work tirelessly to make the moving process as easy as possible. Among other things, they advise new applicants, recommending to provincial immigration authorities only those who meet government requirements such as language and professional skills. As a result, Gove

processes their cases more quickly, and chances of success are almost certain. "There's tremendous potential for Winnipeg's community to absorb people from here," said Rosenberg-Cohen during a visit to Argentina last May. "We had the Argentinians such a good shock [Yiddish for "match"]." With Winnipeg's more intimate Jewish community, many of the families have found themselves more involved in community life than they had been in Buenos Aires.

But no matter how much Grow Winnipeg can smooth the bumps in the road, coming, plating, plating, one's home and juggling a life's work on a single decision is a harrowing process. Come to think of it, Vivian Gotszadi began thinking seriously of abandoning Buenos Aires in late 2002. The drama strengthened when her eight-year-old son, Beniamin, having just seen the Canadian cartoon *Freddie the Hardie*, asked one night whether it was more fun to be in Canada or to play outside their homes. "You said?" Gotszadi says. "This is why we have to leave. I want to take my kids out of here."

But her husband, Mario David, remains hesitant. Another quality concern, he would be able to practice in Canada only after a difficult accreditation process that could take several years. Gotszadi remains hell-bent on leaving. By last June, she had packed half of their belongings into boxes that reach the ceiling of their cramped apartment. Today, David is still hesitant, but they have received their visas and plan to emigrate in May.

**GABRIEL AND MARCELA** learned fast. Gabriel what it's like to leave a life behind and start anew. The Canadian embassy finally waived the need for Gabriel's certificate from Spain. After months of living out of suitcases in temporary accommodations, the family landed in Winnipeg in the first week of October.

Gabriel is now interviewing for jobs, and working part-time as a market research call center. Marcela is learning English, while the kids have already completed a semester of school. Whichever year-old Juan has even been named captain of his basketball team. "The kids loved it and so do we," Gabriel says. "After the difficult years we've been through, we needed a quiet life." Peace, security and a future—this is what all the families heading to Winnipeg want to come. The Schuysmans will not be the last to arrive. □

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# ARMS AND THE CHILD

Kids have been fighters in the Congo, but can they survive peace?

The Democratic Republic of Congo is a country where beauty, wealth, brutality and poverty have long existed side by side. Belgium wonned the area at the turn of the 20th century, and quickly began the exploitation of Congolese resources, including rubber and ivory. With colonization came forced labor and killings, but after independence in 1960 the Congolese fared little better. President Mobutu Sese Sese, who took over in 1965, plundered the country for more than three decades. In May 1997 and over forced Mobutu was ousted in Kinshasa, where he died shortly after fleeing the country. The accession to power by Laurent Kabila and his rebels did not solve the conflict, in which more than three million people have died—and in which almost half of the fighters have been children. Now, stability is slowly returning; peace negotiations between the various factions resulted in a transitional government last July, and many child soldiers are being demobilized. *Canadian physician Savannah Hutt of War Child Canada is currently in the Congo. She did this report as part of a series on and for her husband, Dr. Eric Hootkins, are working for Maclean's on the impact of war*

**WHEN I AM** introduced to ex-combatants Zakaria and Bemvira outside of Bukavu, in the Congolese province of South Kivu, I know I have witnessed someone in which young men such as those were undoubtedly complex. Zakaria is 16, with alean, muscular build and an impatient, penetrating gaze. Bemvira, 17, makes more of an effort to be charming, smiling intensely as I pull out my journal to take notes.

They both fought under Laurent Kabila's direct orders. The boys are from poor families and were enticed by the US\$400 "fighting bonus" offered by Kabila's Alliance of

Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo (AFDL). "As soldiers we were assigned, with the rest of our force, to open the roads for the AFDL," Bemvira tells me, slouching into a white plastic chair. I ask them what happened when they met rebellion along the way. "We came across them," Zakaria continues. "Our comrades told us these were militia and Mobutu's army hiding among them. We approached the camps, and we started shooting. When we killed the soldiers, our enemies had nowhere to hide." These two Congolese teenagers admit that, even before reaching all this violence, they witnessed and participated in the killing of hundreds, possibly thousands, of people. "Sometimes we left the bodies, sometimes we were instructed to dig holes, and sometimes we buried them or threw them in the lake," recalls Bemvira.

Both boys have recurring nightmares. "I was loading a group of soldiers when we came across an old man on the road," Bemvira says. "I shouted to him 'Papa!' because we needed directions. He saw that we were fighters and up to bad things. He would not answer me. Then he said, 'I am old, I am old, I am old.' Then I shot him in the head." Why did he do that, I ask. "Because I was angry," he says flatly. Zakaria nods sympathetically. "During one raid on a village," he recounts, "our commander told us to start shooting. I was with a friend in the heart of a rich family and we found \$500. The mother, father and six children were hiding in one of the rooms. The father con-



Zakaria (left) and Bemvira are facing the transition hard, and both suffer from nightmares.

A child soldier with a Mayi-Mayi militia gun poses for the camera with guns and cigarettes.



fronted us and said we should give back to him money. I shot him. Then the mother and the children started screaming, so I shot them too. I killed them because I didn't want anyone to know what we had done."

The United Nations reports that tens of thousands of militia fighters in the Congo are children, both victims and perpetrators in what some international aid agencies have called the worst humanitarian crisis and deadliest war in Africa. In relative terms, Bemvira's and Zakaria's stories are not extraordinary. The story of abuses documented by human rights groups, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, reads like a misanthropic horror novel, in which victims describe acts of cannibalism, torture (including genital amputation), rape, summary execution and sexual slavery at the hands of Congolese armed militias.

Among the worst offenders are the Mayi-Mayi militia, a disparate group of Congolese fighters noted for their brutality that pervades Congolese society. With children in young as eight among their ranks, the Mayi-Mayi engage in brutal and sometimes gruesome rituals that spread fear throughout the region. At a Centre for Innocent and Orphans (CIC) in a town of half a dozen houses for demobilized child soldiers—Irene Bonomo, a 10-year-old boy has been with him. He spent three years as the guardian of the "mystic water" used by local Mayi-Mayi militia. For the fighters, this potion has supernatural powers that can make them fly, become bulletproof or even invisible. Bonomo will not reveal the water's recipe, but before he tells it was his job to dispense it. The explanation offered is when a soldier is killed it is that the water will not work on those who have failed to follow the precise code of conduct outlined by Mayi-Mayi spiritual advisors.

It's not surprising that children believe in the Mayi-Mayi's superstitions, but many Congolese adults do as well, affording the militia considerable psychological power. On New Year's Eve at Bonomo's CIC, former Mayi-Mayi child soldiers advised the staff that they needed to participate in a ritual of "cleansing" that involved drinking and washing in the fresh blood of an animal. When none was offered up, the children reportedly threatened the staff. Under normal circumstances, this kind of hostility would be contained and the children punished. But the power of the Mayi-Mayi was taken

seriously enough for the CTO's director to then procure a goat for the ritual.

Returning to the road, our driver, Des, explains the powers of the Mayi Mayi. "It is true," he says emphatically. "I have seen it with my own eyes. The bullets bounce off them and go in the other direction. Everyone believes it." In the Congo, where wars in spare and allegations of serious rape, murder and superstition are powerful tools that the Mayi Mayi, and various armed militias, have employed over the years. But it makes the task of demobilization and reintroduction of child recruits their counterparts even more difficult, requiring a comprehensive strategy that not only takes away military arms, but demystifies the powers of those who use them.

There is some hope that the tide is changing. UN-backed accords between several Congolese armed factions resulted in the installation of a transitional government last July, led by Joseph Kabila son of Laurent, who was assassinated in 2001. With the draw of peace comes the promise of greater stability. Even as children are being demobilized, plans are underway to register Congolese refugees from neighboring countries. The conflict is now primarily subdued to the northeastern part province, the Ituri-Congo-Congo, where the Congolese army has been the east's gold mines, which are still controlled by the militia. In Bunia alone, UN sources told me, it is estimated that more than 100,000 Congolese children have been exploited not only in war, but in the country's mines.



Congolese children have been exploited not only in war, but in the country's mines.

the Congo's rich mineral, oil and gas resources makes the Congolese people vulnerable to further abuse. One of the major sticking points in the peace process for the Ituri region has been the east's gold mines, which are still controlled by the militia. In Bunia alone, UN sources told me, it is estimated that more than 100,000 Congolese children have been exploited not only in war, but in the country's mines.

**'THE father confronted us, so I shot him. Then the mother and the children started screaming, so I shot them too.'**

estimated that more than US\$30,000 in commercial activity related to mining takes place every week.

And where once there was rubble to attract foreign investors, now there is a calm, a renewal with new active properties that is rare in the northeast of the country and widely used in cellphones and computers

Last October, the United Nations Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources in the Congo released a report, listing the names of individuals, governments and companies, including several Canadian firms, involved in the plundering of the Congo's gems and minerals. And this month, MONUC is scheduled to release a report on the exploitation of Congolese children stemming from mining activities in the northeastern province.

The Congo also requires a significant infusion of funds to rebuild war-ravaged communities and further facilitate demobilization. With the transitional government in place, observers are cautiously optimistic. "In the Congo, elsewhere, political conflict equals economic power," explains John Myers, the UN's humanitarian coordinator for South Kivu. "It is so for several people are coming at a table while others stand around, watching. So the method is to get a seat at the table and, when you do, not to make too much

fast before you are replaced by the next group." He believes the only solution is to build and reinforce Congolese notions of civic responsibility and public good at all levels of society, including the political.

Zakaria's last interview, new part of a skills training program for ex-combatants, show me the chairs they have made for a university that is being refurbished. I ask them if they are happy with their new vocation. "I prefer to be an army," Zakaria says, smiling me to test his work, "but if you are a child that was demobilized they won't take you back, so this is the only chance I have."

I am encouraged, less by his ongoing career in informal commerce than by his belief in the desirability of the demobilization process. Zakaria's message is more chilling: "I would go back tomorrow," Zakaria says, borrowing a shirt from a friend when I ask to take his photograph. "I will fight for anyone. I don't care who it is. It is better than being in poverty, with no schools and no food to eat. What kind of life is that?" Peace and stability may come, but war will be a long, hard process for those who have known nothing but suffering and war.



## THE JOBLESS RECOVERY

Stock options are the real reasons for many massive U.S. layoffs

AS DEMOCRATIC presidential candidates call audiences daily, the U.S. economy since George W. Bush took office has had the greatest job losses since the Great Depression. Americans are growing increasingly antipathetic to the economy run back, workers aren't being called back. In the third quarter of 2003, U.S. GDP grew at a blistering 8.2 per cent, but the employment numbers didn't budge.

Economists had been strangely unanimous that the government's employment report for December would show a big job gain. The average predicted by these economists was

120,000, but some optimists expected as many as 150,000 new jobs. The actual reported score, 1,000 new jobs in a workforce of 147 million (Canada produced 53,000 jobs in the same month with an economy roughly one-eighth the size.) This new news gain in what is probably the single most important economic statistic since disaster struck the U.S. economy, a federal deficit that is running at an annual rate of about US\$50 billion, and Alan Greenspan's desperate strategy of lowering the Federal Reserve money at a rate as fast as possible.

Speaking a week after that frightening statistic was released, Greenspan reiterated his expressed view that the current economic recovery will vary from the last in its predicament—it will produce jobs. Such blame as he assigned was to the remarkable growth in productive capacity businesses are able to grow their sales with fewer employees because of their heavy investment in high technology devices and systems.

Why is this recovery different? Why are companies so eager to fire workers in favour of machines and cutting back on jobs? As an answer, the Internet? It is purely a matter of corporate profit and, alas, why it is so heavily concentrated in the high-tech industries, who are usually the best at producing jobs. (The U.S. is now running a huge trade deficit on computers and parts while computer and software engineers are experiencing notably high job losses.)

What nobody wants to want to talk about is the gap incentive to top management to fire workers and outsource both staff and

front jobs, an incentive that first appeared on a small scale during the recovery under Bush senior, which challenger Bill Clinton called the "jobless recovery." The massive stock options which, for technology companies (other than Microsoft) and hundreds of other U.S. companies, are reported as part in calculating companies' net profits.

I wrote a book last year about the stock market crash that focused on the white-collar desire of rewarding insiders with new fortunes whose costs were never reported to stockholders. What I didn't write about—and should have—was how lying about company profits encourages management to cut employees and send jobs abroad.

Here's how stock options enhance management to fire workers:

**THE REFUSAL to include options in financial reports is a multi-billion dollar payoff for mendacity and for callousness in treatment of workers**

Let's say Left Coast Wonder Inc. is losing money because of a plunge in orders for its gizmos. The CEO and CFO announce that they are going to slash their own salaries to a mere \$1 each. They then reward themselves and some other top insiders with 50 million options on the company's stock—options they buy the stock for 10 years at the current depressed price of \$12 a share (down from \$85 in the market). They report zero cost to stockholders from these options. In reality, they are worth at least \$8 a share, according to the established method of calculating option values.

They justify giving themselves these rewards as a reward for company's long-term success, because they have no costs, mostly by firing employees. ("It deeply grieves us to let go loyal employees, but we must do what is best for the stockholders") is the typical press release in the push to slip us by. If the company loses 1,000 workers carrying an average of \$50,000 yearly, then it can report it has cut costs by \$400 million. Under their compensation arrangements, they got huge option allocations when the company made money, and huge options when it lost money if they could show the compensation committee—a term used for what are laid-off in boardroom lingo—that they had cut costs by a targeted amount.

If, as Warren Buffett and almost every serious analyst of corporate behaviour and malfeasance believe, those stock options should be shown as costs, then, in this illustration (that clearly resembles real life in technology land), the company's actual cost had not declined at all. In other words, the refusal to include stock options in financial reports is a perverse incentive. It encourages

managements to enrich themselves by firing employees and outsourcing jobs without actually benefiting stockholders. It is a multi-billion dollar payoff for mendacity and for callousness in treatment of workers.

Malicious this story by itself. It shows how companies and you have a pretty good clue as to why this is not just a public relations ploy, but a jobless recovery. The men inside who slash their own salaries with options in the good times are doing it today—the more workers fired, the greater the management.

By the way, many in Congress, who make the laws, are opposed to changing the rules for accounting for stock options. They seem to be there just to get them.

Donald Case is chairman of Warner Investment Management in Chicago and of Toronto-based James Stewart Investments. Above: Congolese children.



## LESS FILLING, TASTES...

The fight for market share meets the battle of the bulge, writes JOHN INTINI

FOR YEARS, beer companies have been selling the fantasy that drinking their brew could introduce the average Joe to a world of wild games with scantly clad models. Now they're pushing the notion that their product can help you look like the pretty people on their commercials—or at least shave an inch off that bulging beer belly. Sure, the bikini-clad girls and fit boys still frolic in some of the ads, but in others it's carbohydrate count that sells.

During the last few months, Molson, Labatt, Sleeman and Big Rock became the first Canadian brewers to produce low-carb beer. The new brews are designed to conquer the threat of Atkins diet disciples and those on other low-carbohydrate regimens. But they are also evidence that the brewers are

Hoping to sell Big Rock's Jack Rabbit, with the lowest carb count of the four Canadian brews.

willing to try anything to gain an increased share of Canada's \$12.6-billion domestic beer market. In North America, Canada's breweries and a dozen other brands (mostly U.S. based) are playing catch up with industry front-runner Anheuser-Busch. In September 2002, the St. Louis-based firm introduced its first low-carb beer, a lager with 2.6 g of carbohydrates per 341-ml bottle, which has surpassed more than two percent of the U.S. \$6 billion American beer market.

Once launched, the trick for brewers is finding ways to not their beer apart from the new brands. "We 4.5 per cent alcohol," Molson Ultra is Canada's, and in fact we know the

world's, first and only regular strength beer with lower carbs," emphasizes Molson vice president of marketing Bob Armstrong. Ultra contains 3.5 g of carbs and 97 calories per bottle. With only two grams per 355-ml can, Big Rock's Jack Rabbit has the lowest carbohydrate count of the four Canadian options. "Jack Rabbit has low-carb beer, while the other three are light beers," says Mike Hogan, general manager of sales and marketing at Calgary-based Big Rock, adding that Jack Rabbit, like Labatt Sterling and Sleeman Clear, is four per cent alcohol. "It's even lower in carbs and calories than some of the most alcoholic beers."

So far, Canadians seem willing to give the new brands a try. "We were sold out of Sterling in the first seven days after we launched

## THE LOWDOWN ON LOW-CARB BEER

An unscientific taste test by Maclean's staff, based on a low-usage (750 ml) rating scale

TASTER (REGULAR BEER OF CHOICE)	MOLSON ULTRA	LABATT STERLING	SLEEMAN CLEAR	BIG ROCK JACK RABBIT	TASTERS' LOW-CARB PICKS
	Cara 2.5 g Carbs 97	Cara 3.5 g Carbs 88	Cara 2.5 g Carbs 96	Cara 2.5 g Carbs 95	
Taster 1 (Sleeman's Best)	★	★★★	★★	★★★★	Jack Rabbit—"Tastes almost like a beer"
Taster 2 (Sleeman)	★	★★	★½	★★½	Jack Rabbit—"Just watery"
Taster 3 (Molsonhead)	★	★½	★★	★★★	Jack Rabbit—"Least offensive"
Taster 4 (Sleeman)	★	★★	★★★	★★★★	Jack Rabbit—"Not offensive"
Taster 5 (Sleeman's Green Ale)	★	★	★★	★★	Clear—"Results in the prettiest head I've ever had"
Taster 6 (Sleeman's Honey Brew)	★	★★	★★	★★★	Jack Rabbit—"Tastes like beer"

1 = I'D PICK IT IF I HAD TO; ★ = FOUR-DIGIT PICK; ★★ = OK IF YOU'RE REALLY THIRSTY; ★★★ = REASONABLE OPTION; ★★★★ = BEST BEER; ★★★★★ = EASY ENOUGH TO DRINK REGULARLY



in November," says Labatt's director of public affairs, Nigel Miller. "We were back in full national distribution last month and sold almost 80,000 six packs of the first week." Officials at Montreal-based Molson and Calgary-based Sleeman International don't give exact figures, but say low-carb sales have been better than expected. It's too early to assess Jack Rabbit, which only hit shelves in January and will not be available any further east than Manitoba.

While early sales are good signs, success lies in the ability to create return customers. That may prove difficult in Canada. Light beers hold nearly 90 per cent of the American market—Bud Light alone claims 15 per cent (that's US\$8.4 billion in annual sales). By comparison, less than 20 per cent of total Canadian sales are light beers.

Another obstacle to success could be the brewers all claim they've removed the

carbs while preserving the flavor, but others are far less charitable. Nicholas Pothley, the Toronto-based author of *Wine on my Beer*, a humorous memoir, says slacks of flavor and a watery consistency are his biggest problems with low-carb beers. "Eating mild cheddar cheese is an ordeal to the core," says Pothley by way of comparison. "I'm tempted to say beers like these are an ordeal to the hops, but it's not clear my hops were sacrificed in the making of these beers."

Even more scathing are reviews posted on

www.brewers.com. The one, which must mean more than 20,000 beers, ranks Sleeman Clear No. 12 on its "Worst Beers in the World" list. Only Jack Rabbit, because of its recent release, escaped the harsh criticism of beer aficionados. Among the comments on the Canadian low-carb "insignificant tap water," "an insult to light beer," and "tastes like someone applied a lido corn syrup in their club soda."

In their defense, the brewers aren't selling this product as beer connoisseurs, but as people for whom it's the only option if they hope to adhere to their low-carb diets. Regular beers have between 11 and 17 g of carbohydrates per bottle. But in many nutritional points-of-view, the difference in carbs between light and lower-carb beers is negligible. "Beer is not a big contributor of carbs to your diet," claims the first place, says Leslie Beck, a Toronto-based registered dietitian. "The big concerns are mostly refined carbs in big portions being served at restaurants."

Some industry experts warn that low-carb beer won't expand beer sales, but instead will simply cut away at the lighter beer market. Not so, says John Sleeman. The Sleeman graduate says Clear, launched last August, boosted sales. "We

consider this a small shoe segment," says Sleeman. "Premium Lights, which is our light beer, has not been cannibalized by Clear. More interesting to me is Henry's Brew and Cream Ale have not been cannibalized."

Canadian beer expert Stephen Beaumont says head-on low-carb beer will have much staying power. "We've seen a bunch of different things over the years—bottled draft beer, dry ice and clear beer," says Beaumont, the editor of [www.worldofbeer.com](http://www.worldofbeer.com). "This is just one more in a long line of fads." Again, Sleeman disagrees. "As baby boomers get older, there is more concern in health," says Sleeman. "That's what's going to change in the next 10 to 15 years." If we over the case, if you're able to balance a bottle on that diet of yours—standing up, but you don't want to give up beer completely, low-carb is an option. The case may not be great, but it's certainly less filling. ■

**THE brewers aren't aiming at connoisseurs, but at people for whom it's the only option if they stick to their diets**



# NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT

How did coughs, sniffles and wheezing become anti-social behaviour?

**THE OTHER DAY**, I had reason to be in a Toronto hospital, for the first time since we all began to suffer from what I like to call Post-Traumatic SARS Syndrome. Perhaps you're familiar with this condition: patients exhibit a painful self-consciousness about coughing or sneezing in public, and worry excessively that they have just slaughtered 10 innocent people on the GO Train by expelling droplets of saliva. Alternatively, they worry excessively that other people will suspect them of carelessly putting others at risk by sneezing or failing to wash their hands.

Kivichoi nervous, I suppose. But the anxiety and focus when one's dog has just pooped in the neighbour's flower bed and one didn't happen to remember to bring a plastic bag or one's walk. There are some things that are just not done. At least, not anymore.

I was reminded of PTSD when I walked through the front doors of North York General Hospital one cold, sunny morning and immediately saw a sign warning visitors to go away if they had a fever or a cough. This is a somewhat ironic announcement to see at a hospital, but times have changed. I had noticed a cough, a fever, and although I didn't catch a couple of times in the corridor, I was coughing my son's cold. That is, I came to the hospital because my daughter was having day surgery.

Intimately approached the reception desk, where two young hospital staffers inquired whether or not I had recently been in contact with anyone who was ill. I asked my head, figuring that my son didn't count, because he obviously had a garden variety cold as opposed to, say, SARS. The staffers had the sign in, and then watched me carefully, until he suddenly both with love, which guess would be necessary on producing a pistol and trying to sub them. When I had finished writing down who I was and where I was going, I was impressed up and snugged my jacket, and then—out the drive home from June I entered. My nose began running. I glanced twice anxiously at the staffers, wondering if I could still proceed to the pedi-



atrician waiting room upstairs. They passed back at me, wondering, but said nothing.

On the way to the elevator, I noticed two SARS prepodentia scanner instructions posted to the walls. In the gift shop, the latest Toronto Life magazine opened a dramatic cover story about Toronto being the ground zero for the next worldwide viral pandemic. A doctor craned past with a newspaper tucked in the crook of his arm, featuring a front page headline about swine flu and the danger of global influenza.

The scene evoked the opening pages of a

**"WE STROLL around with invisible, psychological perimeter fences that we do not wish to see breached"**

Michael Crichton medical thriller, like *The Andromeda Strain* or something, where ominous hints of coming plague shadow ordinary moments in everyday life. Once I was seated in the crowded, stuffy waiting room for day surgery, my body found it necessary to cough me into a full-blown sneezing fit, at which point I felt like the guy in a commercial for cough drops currently playing on TV, who hurls away at one end of the bus while every other passenger coughs into the other end in abject horror, as if covering away from airborne plague.

Mortified, I began to dash off to the bathroom every time I needed to sneeze, only to return to my seat, agitated and angry, as if I were a Mr. Bean, and attempt to smother myself with a nonchalant dignity. As I did so, I thought about the cough drops commercial, and wondered when we had come to believe it endlessly plausible, rather than wildly plausible, that a person cough-

ing in public could cause a stampede.

There has, I suppose, always been a little bit of it toward blagues in each of us here in North America. Blended in with our priest approach to warding off germs, one also detects a decidedly neurotic fear of contagion. It seems to be a line of Self that there that cannot be controlled or kept in a disease mess, germs, cough, sniffle, dust, necessary sniffs—all of the things that shock Canada that matters when they travel through cities like New Delhi and Beijing. It is the chaos of poverty and the turmoil of large populations, which we affluent Northerners have never had to face. In fact, we even our personal space and snarl around with invisible, psychological perimeter fences that we do not wish to see breached. Last year, I was lined up behind a well-coiffed woman at an ATM, catching my eye business and daydreaming, when she suddenly whirled around and said "Do you mind not standing so close to me?" I was so surprised that I started to laugh. I just hope the cashier has to ride on the Mexico City subway.

**"THE FEAR of cooties can be located. I think, in that larger fear of intermingling with strangers"**

As if I'm certain searches within our tissues, we compulsively occlude our personal hygiene as well, compared with everyone else on the planet. If you look in a disinfectant clean lines a perfectly normal from a health standpoint, it is not. In the last couple of years, research has suggested that the excessive use of anti-bacterial soaps in hand-washing, in addition to the overuse of antibiotics, has led to lowered immune systems. So use that argument cautiously.

The fear of cooties can be located, I think, in that larger fear of intermingling with strangers. And infection is a perfect metaphor for a shared personal space. How else, after all, do we explain the far-dimensioned action that we pay to the perils of monogamy borne West Nile virus, which infected over 10,000 Americans and Canadians last year, hospitalized thousands and killing 233 of them, including 18 in this country? So an alarming question is, what will happen to our

wary public harmony if we get hit with a fresh wave of infectious, human-to-human disease? What if the swine flu, or next year's version of swine, arrives in Vancouver or Toronto direct from Southeast Asia?

Will we plunge once further into a land of sublimated xenophobia, where germs become the metaphor for our fear of the 'strangely handed'? Will obsessive compulsive

hand-washing and overall health hysteria continue to take the place of this deeper fear of disorder, change, turmoil, intermingling? Or will we flip in the opposite direction, and begin to express an overt hostility to [our panacea about] our much-collected Chomskys and Little Indians and the like? Let us hope that pragmatism and self-awareness win the day.

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# WELCOME, EARTHLINGS

The rovers have landed, but when will humans actually go to Mars?

Thirty years ago Mars turned out to be nothing but a cold and sterile piece of rock. Suddenly, it's back as the focus of intense astrocyber exploration. *Tweakers* like the NASA probes Spirit and Opportunity, banded into the red planet and are returning startling images of enigmatic terrain while the European Space Agency's orbiting Mars Express is offering up a whole eye view of a much glibber place. Scientist William Hartmann, author of *A Traveler's Guide to Mars*, a NASA veteran of both the Mariner 9 mission in the early 1970s and the more recent U.S. *Mars Global Surveyor* mission. From his office at the Planetary Science Institute in Tucson, Ariz., he's talking to Madeline's Robert Shoppard about exploring the red planet and what lies beyond.

**As you know, the Viking landings in the mid-1970s found no sign of life on Mars. What's changed? Why are we back?**

That's right. The results were, not only did we not see any life in the Viking photos, but the soil was sterile, and they were abso-lutely sterile. So people said at that time, by the end of 1976, "Well, if there was ever any life anywhere, there would surely be this organic material around, organic molecules, debris of that sort." Since then, we've come to realize that there's much more un-derground ice on Mars, in other words, water, but like you in the Canadian tundra. And the polar ice is actually frozen water sitting up on top of the surface. Also, we now know there are places on Earth where the soil turns sterile, for example, Antarctica. But there you go and look in there and there's bacteria happily living down in the cracks and pores again.

**So what are we going now with Spirit and Opportunity in still pursuing a search for life?**  
I'd say this is the big driving factor in all of this. And the second set of questions is the history of water on Mars, because that's what we think is needed to make life. Spirit has found a crater, where there's clearly a river

valley that eroded into it. The second rover, Opportunity, is in a low plain, but it's the first area where we're detecting unusual mineral deposits.

**Is the search for life on Mars intended to see if life sprang up on Earth and Mars and maybe other planets around the same time—that this was some sort of intergalactic seedling?**  
If you found there were bacteria on Mars—or better yet, Mars, and Europa and Titan [moons of Jupiter and Saturn, respectively], and other planets—and they all had com-mon DNA ancestors, then you might say, yes, that is seeding. I don't think the seeding



Four billion years ago, Earth and Mars were very similar planets, Hartmann says.

idea is a major driver: it's something that may be missing, but it's not in it if we're seeing that question per se. Four billion years ago, when life was starting on Earth, that's the time when the conditions were right on Mars, too. The likely scenario that life is something that happens on any plan-et as when there's water and chemicals and the conditions are right.

Something that really intrigues me is that we might find on Mars a kind of missing link in the first cells: not single-celled an-imals, but maybe something halfway down that would be missing on Earth, because it would be gobbled up by all the living cells

that formed later. Mars might be the only place you can go back to have exposed surfaces of the original planetary crust.

**So four billion years ago Earth and Mars were quite similar, but something happened to change all that. Was it a cosmic collision?**  
For sure the early planets were being hit by large objects, and in fact Don Davis and I have at the Planetary Science Institute were the originators of the theory that the Earth's moon was formed by a giant impact, which blew off material and formed the moon. So you, those may have played a role in erasing away Mars's atmosphere. Was there one big impact? Or was it more like atomsphere gases slowly drifting off into space? I think it's probably near the second.

But there's some new science we're only just beginning to understand. Mars doesn't have a big moon like Earth. So it wobbles more. If you imagine the North Pole of the Earth leaning over 45 degrees toward the sun—you're up there in Canada, you're suddenly getting a lot more summer sunlight than you would have under a lower tilt. And what we think we're seeing is, a lot of ice vapor-ized from one pole to the other, on the 10-million-year time scale, which is a very young time scale for geologists. This may be what you're seeing. Because like the tide gal-axies and even some glacial-like features, that look very recent.

**There's been talk of late about a manned space probe to Mars. Does something have to come out of this trip to justify that expense?**  
People are always looking for that. Under-tanably science doesn't quite move that way. You don't step it and every 300-step produces some fabulous discovery that you didn't even expect. So you have to be will-ing to go in for the long term. Those un-manned missions are progressive: the first two we just landed in safe, flat places. The third, Pathfinder in 1997, was in the middle of a river, but it was still on a plain. Now we're going for the places where the water



may a manned mission would cost close to \$1 trillion—are we looking realistic about costs?

I think it's more important to get a program underway that lays out the right vision of what we're trying to do. Once that's underway, and astronauts and scientists, preferably from different countries working to-gether, can be employed to start working on it, then the cost comes in there. That's pro-gram has some elements of that, and some elements that make less sense. Apparently he's talking about launching Mars expeditions from the moon. That doesn't make much sense. You don't want to have to haul fuel up to the moon, and get it back up into space again. One of the biggest political issues in this going on is another kind of unilateral American thing. I think our generation has an opportunity to design something that goes well beyond that.

**How soon could we land some-body on Mars? What would your timeline be?**

The 2030s.

**Really?**

It could do it sooner, it's really really feasible now. It's more a social and political question: what's the pacing like spending the money? That's only the Russian have been in that Mars space station for long enough to get to Mars. Of course they can't go in. Under Reagan, there was an interesting idea. They proposed that we build something like a big international space station, with solar panels and so forth, but not orbiting around the Earth. It would be in orbit around the sun—so it would circle between Earth's orbit and Mars's orbit. It takes supplies from Earth every time it comes around, but it's big, and it's got all the ac-commodations. Then when you want to fly to Mars, you just send your little spacecraft up, you dock with this thing, you're collecting on Mars, and in so or five months you get off at the Mars orbit.

might have ponded, so we're in a crater and this because rich galaxy. Each one reflects our knowledge, and tells you what experi-ment to do next.

**But for the practical purpose of getting a human there, it's a five-month journey. You're going to need food, water, fuel. So you have to find their first to make the trip viable?**

I think that's what those teams are doing: what they're doing is the confirmation of ice at the pole. You'll think that's the last place you'd want to go on Mars, because Mars is already cold. But at the advantage of the pole, if you land in the summer time, in 24 hours of daylight. We now know there would be a water reservoir there. Add to that the 24 hours a day of free solar energy that's

The aerial view from the European Space Agency's orbiting Mars Express.

flooding through space. To put out victory science fiction has on, if we can begin to improve our solar technology as part of the space exploration program, or better yet figure out ways to build a big collector, then we're harvesting large amounts of solar energy that we can use in various things, even back on Earth. There have been schemes proposed for beaming that energy down to Earth to collecting stations that are part of the world's power grid.

**From what you've seen of President George W. Bush's commitment—he's offering NASA \$1 billion or so extra a year for Mars, while some**



## ROCKIN' WITH THE WRENCH

Ed Werenich's game needs work, but his mouth is in mid-season form, JONATHAN GATEHOUSE reports

**BEHIND THE GLASS**, inside the warm, wood-paneled lounge, the consensus is this out on the ice. The Conestoga is faltering. "Eddie doesn't look like he belongs there," outsiders may muse. Folks in the peanut gallery at the Minden Curling Club murmur in agreement and go back to their coziest of no-nutty-for-ye, the weak winter sunlit ice just crossed the yardarm. In the fourth end, Canada's most infamous curler appears to be in deep trouble. His attempt to draw entire around a forest of pins has just failed miserably. The opposition skip adds a curl, parking his rock in the house and scoring three for a 4-1 lead. Ed (the Wrench) Werenich mounds in silent obscenity, stuffs his hands into his pockets, and push-slides his way down to the other end of the sheet, puffing breath trailing behind him.

There are three other games going on at dusktime time at this cavernous Ontario qualifying tournament on Monday. It's the last-gasp chance for teams hoping to move on to the Ontario championship and contend for the country's top curling prize, the Niles Brier. But the crowd in the lounge is really only interested in the match featuring the star attraction. At 56, the Wrench is curly-throated guy on the ice, a couple of decades beyond most of his competitors. When he announced his retirement in 2000, his status as a legend in the sport was already cemented—acclaimed to much for his ironic scraggs with the curling, *old-timey* and/or for his two world championships, two Canadian titles, 11 appearances on the Brier, and 19 trips to the provincial finals.

His unexpected return to competitive play last fall left a lot of people wondering what he was trying to prove. Werenich's new role-fellow greybeards Neil Harrison and Luan De Loria, both 53, are wise and lead, and Ed's 35-year-old son Ryan—started strong, making the semifinals in three of his first four tournaments, but quickly faded from view. Now, they're on the bubble, the seniors' tour beckoning in the wings.

Other skipper-their heads with team mates at various instructions to outpace Werenich's does little before snapping his gum, tapping his hand's faltering palm brown where he wants the stone to land, and scowling. Then in the fifth, he takes a point with last rock. In the sixth, he steals one. When his

Werenich retired from competition in 2000 because "I was awful, I couldn't make a shot"

rock ties the score in the seventh, he allows himself a shorter fat pump. The gallery is ready to believe again. "He can't change—just his hair is shorter," reads a woman with a golden wrench pinned to her curling pin.

The Wrench's rock leads two to the eighth and crosses to victory. In fact, he wins the struggle in Minden to clinch a berth in this week's provincial finals, his first since 1997.

After he made his way through a throng of well-wishers to buy the long-ate a drink at the bar, Werenich plops down at a table and tries to explain why he's back spending his weekends on chilly, small-town rinks. "I didn't inside gaze at it," he says. "I thought I'd never outgrown it. I mean, I had a shot when I did. I was awful, I couldn't make a shot." Last March, some old friends convinced him to make one-off appearance in a Toronto bompick. He found the line and back pain that had dogged him for years was gone. "I threw the rock like God. I made everything I threw unbelievable. I was over that good when I was good," Werenich cackles. The choice to play on a team with his son made the idea of a comeback irresistible.

Plans may be relaxing, but it's hard to imagine many smiles in the offices of the provincial and national bodies that run the sport. By all accounts, the "old-timey" finals, their harsh critics now back in the spotlight, gleefully throwing bombs, can take the old dogs. "The older curling is very weak," says Werenich. "I always get in for saying this, but the seniors don't run fast aren't as strong as those from the West."

This is supposed to be a bunch-burying season. The rivalry is the dispute between the Canadian Curling Association and the 12-year-old World Curling Tour. Each sport claims that kept most of the country's top teams out of the Brier the last two years. But the Wrench is not in a forgiving mood. "What the CCA has done is destroy the history of the game by being stupid. It all comes down to a little bit of money," he says. "Now [Edmonton's] Randy Ferby has won three Briers in a row. He didn't win anything. Look at who he played. There should be an award on the front boards."

Werenich, a Toronto firefighter, has traded decades with the CCA for years. In 1987, during the team selection process for curling's debut as a demonstration sport at the Calgary Winter Games, the CCA threatened



He may not make it to the final, but to face, the Wrench is the ultimate blue-collar curler

to disqualify him if he didn't shed some pounds from his portly frame, a public humiliation he has never forgiven. In 1990, when he won his second Canadian title, he took his revenge by suggesting he'd boycott the Worlds unless the CCA appeared as a medal team coach stayed at home. Now, with the 2006 Winter Games on the horizon, he's succeeded at what he sees as more at-will by the CCA to punish WCT players and manipulate who will get the chance to represent Canada in Torino, Italy. "They've already cracked in a rink from Halifax," says

**LAST** March, friends convinced Werenich to play a bompick. I threw the rock like God. I made anything. It was unbelievable. I was never that good when I was good."

Werenich (Mark Drury's team gets a gear wheel) set at the Olympic trials by virtue of having finished second in last year's Brier. "I don't know what the hell he's going to do there—other than to finish last, I guess."

Dave Parlan, chief executive officer of the CCA, friends who asked if he has a strategy for dealing with the outcast Werenich. "We'll deal with it the same way we deal with any player out there," he says. "People who want to learn the facts will do so. People who want to listen to this other stuff will

do so." Parlan says the demands of the WCT players—they want the right to wear uniforms with their own sponsors' logos rather than the Brier sponsors'—read cost. The CCA hundreds of thousands of dollars, an enormous ability to sign the costly event. The Olympic qualifying process remains largely unchanged from past years, he says.

George Karrys was a silver medalist for Canada at the 1998 Nagano Games in part of Mike Harris's rink. Now the publisher and editor of Canadian Curling News, Karrys isn't too surprised Werenich has found a way to sign up the nose of curling's push-ins. "Eddie was always very aggressive, an on and off the ice," he says. "He's the hero of the common man—the ultimate blue-collar curler." Earlier this season, at a tournament in Gander, Nfld., some people traveled there or four hours just to watch the Wrench. Karrys expects a similar response at this week's provincial in Owen Sound. "Eddie is the huge sentimental favorite to win," he says.

Werenich says his expectations have already been surpassed this season. His figure he's off by about 75 per cent, something he couldn't have accepted in the past but is attributed by now. "I'm basically lazy. I should get on the treadmill, get on a program and work real hard. I could probably get three or four more good years, but I'm having fun," he says, laughing again to prove it. It's like the old dogs, growing up in Detroit, Minn., where kids made their own rocks by freezing them longer into jam jars, and played outside in the Prairie cold, gambling

for carnic books.

Part of The Conestoga's appeal is that it's been like a reunion. "That year, I played Glen Horned four or five times," he says. "I played Al Hicken. I played Guy Hennings. We've been battling each other for 30

years now. It's like an old-timer home on these. These are no-nonsense—your play and go to the bar." Werenich pushes his ball cap back on his head and looks around the lounge. The dim is growing as the bar bottles pile up on the wood tabletops. Old friends and rivals are winking at you hello. "That's the kind of place I feel comfortable at," he says. "Once you get taken by this game, it's just unbelievable."

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# COMING IN FROM THE COLD

As the Oscar race heats up, creative non-fiction finds a place in the sun

**THE WAR** by the hearts and minds of voters is underway. Not the canon for White House re-election, but for the gold medal prize with the record between Iraqis. The mid-year began last week at the Golden Globes, the draw rehearsal for the Oscars. Winning for Best in Theater, Bill Murray said he'd like to thank the studio "except they're so busy people trying to side credit for this I wouldn't know where to begin." Mary-Louise Parker thanked her newborn son "for my books looking as good as this draw," and a delicious Charlie Sheen (Murray) behaved as if he'd been accepted into the kingdom of heaven.

Two days later the Oscar ceremony took place—and this year's awards have been moved up to Feb. 29. And while Nicole Kidman may be wondering how she got squeezed out of the best actress category by a 13-year-old (Frida Kahlo's Renée Zellweger), Canadians have come to celebrate.

Quebec director Denis Arcand's *The Barbarians* is a leading contender for best foreign language film, but he's also honored for original screenplay. *The Triplets of Belleville*, a Canada-France-Belgium co-production made largely in Montreal, is up for best animated feature and best song. *The National Film Board's* Chris Christensen was recognized for *Melville*, a fitting, ironic anniversary short. And above and beyond those, who composed the music for *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*, a nomination for score and original song.

Earlier last week, two Canadian movies took home audience awards from the Sundance Film Festival: *Seduced by Love*, a whimsical Quebec comedy, and *The Corporation*, a provocative documentary from Vancouver. The Corporation was one of the most talked-about films at Sundance—along with *Super Size Me*, a fast-food horror story about an energetic American filmmaker who spends a month on an all-McDonald's diet. These ground-breaking documentaries, which do as much more than document reality, point to a dynamic trend on the frontier of filmmaking—some of the most daring new

work is in the field of creative non-fiction. Directed by Mark Achbar and Jennifer Abbott, and written by Joel Bakan, *The Corporation* turns on an ingenious premise. The movie explains how a series of court precedents in the mid-19th century gave corporations the rights of a legal "person." And just what kind of person it is? Well, applying disquieting criteria used by psychologists and the World Health Organization, the filmmaker runs through a checklist of personality traits and concludes that our society's dominant institution isn't "control, emotional deficit, destructive, and social and incapable of feeling guilt. In short, a psychopath."

Featuring interviews with the current pantheon of hedge funds—Michael Moore, Noam

Chomsky, Nicolas Klotz—*The Corporation* comes across as a forceful polemic with an unapologetic agenda. But among the sifting heads are a number of enigmatic CEOs. And along with the expected panoplies of environmental rage and toxic marketing, the filmmakers illustrate that *Corporation* may with virtual wit—a lexicon mix of vintage clips and fresh footage. From evidence of IBM helping the Nazis track back Holocaust victims with punch cards, to viruses of biotech companies copyrighting human genes, *The Corporation* assembles an education, and devastating, portrait of corporate pathology. It feels like a new kind of cinematic argument, one that harnesses McLuhan's old moral of medium and message to a compelling sense of global emergency.

*The Fog of War* often an even more seductive view of catastrophe unfolding as a historic saga, but one that's viewed through an eerily neutral lens. The most celebrated commander among this year's Oscar-nominated documentary features, it's the latest masterpiece from American disaster film



McNamara, shown with U.S. troops in Vietnam in 1965, is the subject of a strangely moving documentary



*The Corporation* assembles evidence of IBM helping the Nazis track back Holocaust victims with punch cards, to viruses of biotech companies copyrighting human genes

Morris, a pioneer of creative non-fiction whose *Documenting the Unseen* won the award as a top-notch, almost antipathetic inquiry into the human condition. Morris—whose films include *The Thin Blue Line* (1988) and *Mr. Death: The Rise and Fall of Fred A. Leuchter, Jr.* (1999)—has a way of weaving rigorous research into a kind of investigative tapestry.

With *The Fog of War* he constructs a mesmerizing portrait of Robert S. McNamara, a former lieutenant-colonel in the U.S. air force, and later defense secretary, whose close relations to some of the most catastrophic events of the 20th century. Morris employs his "interviewer," a unnamed device that allows him to make eye contact with his subject directly through the camera. It gives the viewer a sense of peering into the subject's soul. And as McNamara reviews his role as an agent of failure—the 1945 bombing of Japan, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Viet-

nam War—it can't help but stare at the weary gaze, trying to account for himself in the eyes of God. Considering the enormity of military slaughter, McNamara runs a fascinating subplot, and still remarkably lucid at 85. As he recalls U.S. General Curtis LeMay's decision to firebomb Japan during the Second World War, he says, "In a sense I recommended it." Then, wondering if the killing of 300,000 Tokyo civilians on a single night could ever be justified, he admits that he and LeMay would have been tried as war criminals if the Allies had lost.

McNamara was to be chosen, a knight of leadership who had just been named president of the Ford Motor Co. when John F. Kennedy named him to Canada in 1961. The next year he was plunged into the Cuban Missile Crisis. Offering a chilling account, McNamara's most vivid anecdote from his Vietnam service is not that he was ordered to go ahead with the go-ahead plan to deliver a close-up of the war-torn face. But you can't expect a Hollywood movie to such with the narrative as a hunt of rubber-herd's view carried by an actor with good teeth. Afterward, after all, is not a documentary, but another corporate fable of good over evil.

ing the war against their better judgment. The film never mentions Iraq, but when McNamara says the U.S. should never again take unilateral military action, the relevance is unmistakable.

Some critics have attacked *The Fog of War* as an apology. But when emerges is a complex portrait of a man wrestling with his conscience and sifting lessons from the blood of history, a company man who found himself making a last war in the name of the cold war. It's a strangely moving and beautiful film. McNamara is often on the verge of tears. And Morris brings his confessions with hypnotic brevity of archival images—moments of war and operations words—set to a haunting score by Philip Glass. There are endless shots of bombs being assembled, delivered and dropped, and war begins to look like a foolish idea, and that too by Leonard Cohen comes to mind. "I'm guided by the beauty of our weapons."

On a lighter note, Canadians who want to resist a too specious chapter of the Cold War—and get angry—should check out *Melville*. It's a drama about the U.S. Olympic hockey team's David-and-Goliath victory over the Soviets in 1980. Not only did the Americans win our game, but now they've made a movie that tells it—short on Canadian as in (in Altonbrook, IL) with a lot of Canadian actors in minor roles. It comes from Daney, the fellow who made *The Mighty Ducks*. But this one's a true story, about a squad of U.S. college players who are beaten into shape by a slow, cadaver coach (Kurt Russell). It's enough to make you ask why we've never made our own movie about the Paul Henderson goal.

As hockey movies go, this one's not bad, despite some forays into the non-neutral zone of Yankee jingoism. While America embraces the showdown as payback for the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, at least the Canadian creation is a game. There's also a generous amount of hockey in the movie, and it's fun to watch on the big screen without cringing, offside or controversial breaks—over if the camera doesn't let the play before the go-ahead goal to deliver a close-up of the war-torn face. But you can't expect a Hollywood movie to such with the narrative as a hunt of rubber-herd's view carried by an actor with good teeth. Afterward, after all, is not a documentary, but another corporate fable of good over evil.



## AMAZING BUT TRUE

The Sixties' high-water mark, Nazi mysticism, and the strange world of birding

**YOU SAY you want a revolution?** Using the Beatles' 1968 *White Album*, *A Year That Rocked the World* is scored very much as though you were going to one: It's not just booster nostalgia that enables anyone of a certain age to rhyme off remarkable, often shocking, events almost on a month-by-month basis. February: the surprise Tin-Oilwave in Vietnam galvanizes anti-war sentiment. March: Czech reformer Alexander Dubcek tries to put a "human face" on Communism. April: Martin Luther King is assassinated; Pierre Trudeau becomes Prime Minister. May: 400 dent and worker riots almost topple the French government. June: Robert Kennedy is assassinated. August: Red Army troops crash the Prague Spring; violence between police and demonstrators plunges the De-

U.S. TV captured the violence at the Chicago convention



1968: The Year That Rocked the World  
Randolph House  
\$29.95

mocratic convention in Chicago into turmoil. October: 10 days before the Mexico City Olympic Games are to open, the Mexican army fires on student protesters, killing more than 250.

And that's just the political milestones—war, drugs, rock 'n' roll, feminism and general cultural upheaval were also hallmarks of a year that looked set to turn the world upside down. Two forces united these disparate events, according to Mark Karlsky's absorbing history 1968: *The Year That Rocked the World* (Random House). First was a widespread spirit of youthful alienation and anti-establishment. People in the West rebelled against capitalism, in the Soviet bloc, against Communism, and everywhere, against established institutions, political parties and leaders.

Just as significant was the role of television in making 1968 what Karlsky calls the first global year. TV was at its zenith of power, a true mass medium concentrated in a handful of channels watched by nearly everyone. Technicolor TV could now provide same-day footage of bloody Tet battles for American supper-hour news shows, or 37 hours of Chicago police clubbing demonstrators, or Czech

students fleeing down tanks. But shall McLuhan's global village, where disasters in one country could instantly deliver the terrors and joys of their counterparts elsewhere, had become a reality. At the same time, TV remained an untamed force in post-1960s America, not yet the controlled, splintered force it is today.

Karlsky, 35, makes no bones about which side of the great divide he stands on. His "vision of authority," he writes, is "shaped by the memory of the peppy ease of war gas and the way police would slowly surround before moving, club first, for the kill." Karlsky writes well, with an eye for the telling detail, like the fact that prominent socialist activist Mark Rudd raised money for his war to Cuba by selling bush in upper Manhattan. But for all his celebration of a time when each of the world's least to the rise against war and oppression, Karlsky is ambivalent about what the spirit of '68 accomplished. "The American military, he carefully concludes, that drew the sharpest lessons of defeat were forcefully upon them. In later wars, draft lots gave way to volunteers to take the wear out of campus angst. Wars must be short and won by overwhelming technical superiority, not attrition. Above all, the media must be controlled—even "embedded" within the power structure.

The world has not turned out as the dreamers and revolutionaries hoped, the author notes. Terrorism, gay rights and racial equality have made massive advances, and Soviet totalitarianism is gone. But for many, globalized capitalism doesn't exhibit a "human face" either, while social and economic justice remains elusive. In another wistful conclusion, Karlsky finds the true legacy of 1968 in a certain hope: "a sense that where there is wrong, there are always people who will expose it and try to change it."

Thirty years earlier, during another seminal decade in world history, the German Tiki Expedition set out for the Himalayas under the eye of the Third Reich's most infamous mysticist, the 1936-39 journey was the brainchild of Ernst Schäfer, a gun aficionado and zoologist anxious to make a name for himself as an explorer of the new Germany. But was the patronage of Friedrich Hermann—head of the SS, mass murderer and crackpot—just entered it got off the ground. As Christopher Haidt's most recent book, *Blind Men's Crusade: The Nazi Expedition to Find the Origins of the Aryan Race* (944) reveals, Haidt was no garden variety Nazi.

He was in full agreement with Hitler's virulent anti-Semitism, but he was also a devotee of the World for Theory (Hermann was in the unknown's personal realm), who believed that on corners of the Aryan "race" was once shrouded in ice before being released by divine thunderbolts. Cold, unattractive Tibet was just the place to look for traces of them. Schäfer and his fellow explorers, all 88 officers,



Haidt believed that Aryans were once shrouded in ice



Altogether a Crusade  
The Nazi Expedition  
to Find the Origins  
of the Aryan Race  
John Wiley  
\$40.95



The Big Year  
A Tale of Man, Nature  
and Food  
Diersman, Simon & Schuster  
\$30.00

difficultly maneuvered the nose and creases of any Tibetan willing to stand for it.

Haidt's story could be told as a comedy—Schäfer's antics, the amazing his face with the blood of birds he shot, or the penmanship of the Great Game the German played with befuddled British officials in India, could have been Monty Python sketches. Except, of course, that the path of loony men's theory runs straight to the Holocaust. During the war, Heinrich Himmler, the expedition's physical anthropologist and chief messenger of Tibetan nose, worked at Auschwitz and other camps helping to choose the prisoners whose skulls and skeletons would end up in Nazi collections.

It's odd to turn to a humiliated colonizer, even when his dark side has strikingly become as grueling and brutally competitive as it's portrayed in Mark O'Connell's fine-paced *The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature and Food Obsession* (Simon & Schuster), an one-and-a-half-weeks. A Dublin-based underdog is "Big Year" was on Jan. 1 for a 12-month quest to see more birds of birds in Canada and the U.S. than anyone else—over. The 675 native species are only a starting point; the mere jewels that make a winner are "migrants" and "accidentals"—foreign visitors blown in by winds or lured by unusually good weather.

O'Connell follows the fortunes of three very different competitors in 1998—a California chemical company executive and a New Jersey contractor, both of them wealthy and retired, and a just-divorced, poverty-stricken software programmer. They scheme, strategize, keep their plans secret, and race each other around North America. They traveled 450,000 km in total, spent a small fortune and, occasionally, wondered if the hell they were doing. (Contractor Randy Korman's dark night of the soul came on Christmas Eve as he ate alone in a Chinese restaurant in Duluth, Minn. But he managed to unravel his resolve, after all, he had birds to view the next day.) By year's end, aided by one of the strongest El Niños ever and a flood of storm-driven Asian migrants on an Alaska alone, one of the men had seen a record 745 species. Competitive birders talk of it in the same breathless terms as Joe DiMaggio's 56 game hitting streak—a feat that may never be topped. Maybe, but someone will try. Human obsessions, whether benign or bloodthirsty, deeply knows our bounds. **B**



# FLAT-OUT FRUSTRATING

Trying to protect my baby from SIDS had unintended consequences

**AS A FIRST-TIME MOM**, I wanted to get everything right. I had read about the studies showing that babies who sleep on their sides and tummies are at greater risk for sudden infant death syndrome, the unexpected death of an apparently healthy infant. And so, from the day I brought Kaito home, I diligently placed him on his back to sleep. It was cute the way he preferred to rest his head slightly to the right, so that his ear just touched the mattress. But when he was about two months old I realized that that side of his head was becoming flattened. By the time Kaito was three months old, the malpositioning of his skull

should have begun to shift his facial features. One of his eyes looked smaller than the other, as if the corner was being pushed in. His ears were oddly misaligned. There was a slight protrusion on the right side of his forehead. His neck also seemed stiff on one side.

I brought all this up with Kaito's pediatrician at his four-month checkup. She told me the stiffness was due to torticollis, a twisting of the neck that causes the head to remain in a turned position. Kaito's case was not severe enough that he needed the usual

treatment, physiotherapy. And she told me not to worry about his head. "It will eventually round out on its own." My own physician said the same thing. So I tried not to worry, but when strangers began commenting about my baby's head, I could not pretend there wasn't a problem. Visions of him being scared as a boy, as a teen, as a man came. I had already tried to combat the flattening, but only with mild success. When I was nine Kaito was sound asleep, I lifted and turned his head. He would stubbornly rotate it back, as if to show me who was boss. I tried propping his shoulder up, thinking that would force his head to fall the other way when he dozed off, but these efforts seemed futile against this baby boy's will. His head had been firmly planted on that one spot—and it showed in every photo we took. His skull looked like someone had lapped off a side of it.

When I held him in the darkness, my fingers studied every contour of his head as if I was reading Braille. It would catch my self-whispering "snoozy" to him when my

nucleonates felt that I had failed him.

Finally, when I told his pediatrician the flattening had worsened—from the top, his head looked like a paddle log—she referred us to a neurologist. He immediately diagnosed positional plagiocephaly, a condition that typically arises when an infant sleeps with his or her head in the same position. The pressure can affect the brain because babies' skulls are very soft. (Plagiocephaly does not affect brain function or development.)

In everything I had read on SIDS I had



found no mention of this condition. I suppose I should have been gentler: any son was happy and healthy and without any serious neurological problems. Still, I worried about or isolation, and in my search I discovered the craniofacial program at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. When he was eight months old, I put Kaito on the doctor's waiting list.

More than a month later, my husband, Mark, Kaito and I arrived at a theatre at Sick Kids. Two women and another parent in the room felt the way I did: seeing 34 other babies whose heads were malformed, relieved not

to be alone but devastated that there were so many of us. Dr. Christopher Fowler, medical director for the hospital's Centre for Craniofacial Care and Research, told me he used to see plagiocephaly only sporadically. But since the Back to Sleep program—a national campaign aimed at reducing the risk of SIDS—was launched in 1990, he has seen a 1,700-per-cent increase in referrals. In rare cases, he noted, plagiocephaly can affect facial development and lead to asymmetry, which may eventually require surgery.

Formerly, the recommended treatment—an orthotic device for the head. It looked like a hockey helmet with a slit and buckle at the back. Wearing it has no effect on brain development. My eyes thrummed on the slide show of before and after shots of babies with varying degrees of severity.

My husband and I debated getting the moulding helmet. It seemed cruel and punitive, and Kaito would have to wear it 18 hours a day. I worried that it would hurt. I was skeptical about its effectiveness. Still we went ahead—though the first time I put it on him I nearly cried. At 18 months, Kaito was older than most babies when they start a treatment. The optimal time is between six and seven months. By 24 months, doo-head growth and hardening of the skull render the helmet ineffective.

I approached the treatment methodically, grazing the head gear on Kaito only two hours on the first day and working up to 18 hours by one hour a day. Surprisingly, Kaito did not mind the helmet. And for sure, his head did not stop growing until he was 34 months old. The mould would be permanent.

Kaito is now 27 months old. His head is not completely round. But to the unperceptive eye, and to mine, it is perfect.

DOMINICA JAZZ LEE is a Toronto mom and writer. To comment on this story, visit [WWW.SLASH.COM](http://WWW.SLASH.COM).

## CLOSINGNOTES



## TV NEWS

If you've never heard of *Number 101*, *101 FM*, or a *plotted chapter*, that's probably why a visit to the Office, the side-splitting funny British TV show, has been slowly making its way to North America. The mockumentary-style sitcom about workers in a paper merchant office in Slough, England, runs on BBC Canada, ABC America and the first season is available here on DVD. But now that it has won the Golden Globe for best television comedy series over *The Office* and *The Mindy Project*, it's time to make a bigger splash.

Already, U.S. studios are courting the show's creator, *Only Fools and Horses* star John Burt Foster, who also stars as the clay-shedder in *Slush*. David Brent, Gervais will guest star on *Alan* this season and is helping NBC study an American version of *The Office*, which Steve Carell

## People | The lightening up of a former It Girl

**ERIKS CHRISTENSEN**, *It Girl* 2000 for her hair-raising ram as a crack-addicted teen in the Oscar-winning *Truffle*, and *Scarlett Johansson*, *It Girl* 2003 for her Golden Globe-nominated portrayal of a soulful, over-something-wile in *Lost in Translation*, won't be garnering the same kind of recognition for their new movie, *The Perfect Score*. But the two actresses do bring some class to this sweet teen flick about high-school students trying to steal the money in the SATs.

Christensen plays a good girl under pressure from her parents, and Johansson is off-book for a telefilm. They join up with four guys (played by Chloë Grace Moretz, Leonardo Nam, and NBA star Darius Miles) who also have reasons for breaking into the office building where the dreaded scholastic aptitude test is kept. Off the set, this group of young actors bonded

Christensen was a draggle in *Truffle* and is a cheerer in *The Perfect Score*.

over more innocent activities. "We started by running for dinner a lot, talking about taboo subjects, like religion and politics," says Christensen, 31. "It was summer in Vancouver and it was beautiful, so we went hiking and whistler skiing. And we were all singing at the same hotel, so we'd meet in the pool and play Mario Party."

It's only recently that the Seattle-born, 1-A-rated Christensen has allowed herself to take roles like this, where fun is the main focus. "I was spoiled with *Truffle*," she says. "Not only was it an amazing director, script, cut and role—you can find all those aspects—but it was also an amazing experience. If you're looking for that in every single movie that you make, you'll never find it. I realized there's nothing wrong with comedies—they leave the audience feeling better than when they came in."

SHARON DECH



Gervais is obsessive on *The Office*.

Alike news correspondent on the *Today Show* with Jon Stewart, is the leading candidate to fill Gervais' void.

Three episodes of *The Office* will be shown on Feb. 4 on Show case, and BBC Canada will replay season one and two starting Feb. 12.



## Hardware | Building a better supercomputer

Bill Pulleyblank is a goal-oriented guy—he wants to change the world. The 56-year-old is director of IBM's Deep Computing Institute, a group that's designing and constructing a supercomputer called Blue Gene. When it's completed next year, the five-year, US\$100-million system at the IBM research facility in Yorktown Heights, N.Y., will be the most powerful on Earth—10 times faster but 16 times more compact than today's leader, the ST20 NEC Earth Simulator in Japan.

Born in Calgary, Pulleyblank joined IBM in 1969 before departing for the cozy confines of academia in 1974. After earning a Ph.D. in mathematics at the University of Waterloo, he taught computer science there until he rejoined IBM in 1993. But he isn't a forgotten how to explain a complicated subject to untrained ears. "Basically, Blue Gene will revolutionize the way these things are built," he says. "Now, we can actually produce a machine with the kind of capability for an individual scientist or researcher."

Blue Gene was initially designed to piece together how proteins fold, a tool expected to provide researchers with a vital understanding of how to combat



Pulleyblank heads IBM's Deep Computing Institute.

diseases like cystic fibrosis. "In 10 years, we'll see construction of custom hardware for diseases based on genetic information," Pulleyblank says. But the machine has proved far more versatile. "It will let us run a number of different kinds of applications on it." For example, it will be able to take the universe of flight requirements for an airline and respond to conditions like a water storm in an instant, adjusting everything from flight schedules to personnel. Pulleyblank says Blue Gene's uses are limitless. "If we're successful, it'll change the world."

## Games | Team Sonic

SEGA (MARC) (SEGA)

The most popular of fast-paced video games returns with two new adventures in just three years, and it's not as easy. Though the game features an old-school style of play, there's a twist: players control a horde of characters, each with its own special powers, acting in concert to fight evil.



## Blogs | Character quiz

A popular new trend among Web bloggers uses one of the greatest philosophical questions of all time as a starting point: who am I? Take a personality quiz at <http://www.iamquizzes.com> to determine what famous leader or what classic

movie you most resemble. Answers determine if you're a Clinton, Truman/Dewey's List type, or maybe a Bill Clinton/No Duopoly. You can then compare results and post a picture of your idealized likeness on your blog.



## Web | Surfin' safari

I've been surfing the Net for a decade using Microsoft's Internet Explorer, but recently I've experimented with a couple of alternatives. Safari for Apple's OS X and WebCaptor for Windows. Both feature file browsing, which allows you to open multiple Web pages within the same browser window and navigate between them by clicking tabs located at the top or bottom of the screen. They let you classify your favorite Web pages into groups, too. For example, say you're a movie junkie who wants a handful of Web sites scrolling through your drop-down

browser's menu and opening them infrequently. Now you can add all your sites to one address bar. Both browsers come with an integrated pop-up blocker. Safari is produced by Apple and runs on every Mac. You can download updates at [www.apple.com/safari](http://www.apple.com/safari). WebCaptor's freeware is found at [www.webcaptor.com](http://www.webcaptor.com), but it sports a very thin and unobtrusive banner ad. The Pro version costs \$24.95. All in all, these browsers pack enough options to make my Internet experience in a whole new direction.



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John Intini starts a sentence  
Debbie Travis finishes it

Many people would gladly hand Debbie Travis the keys to their house. The world renowned interior designer is the host of *Debbie Travis' House!*—on which people are loved along with their homes for a few days while Travis and her crew revamps a room—and the author of seven decorating books. The one-time fashion model, who relocated from her native Britain to Canada 15 years ago after marrying a Montrealer, recently finished *Madison's Researcher-Reporter* John Inghin's sentences

Christmas Day I had hidden the fire extinguisher because the colour didn't match the room and a candle burnt down and hit some decorations. The room was in flames in less than three minutes. I burned my hands quite badly trying to put it out. The fire fighters said if the tree caught on fire we would have lost the house.

AFTER 130 REMOVALS I DON'T LIKE . . .

change my name or blame someone else.

**THE THING I MISS MOST ABOUT MODELLING IS...** nothing I've an atrocious walker and very clumsy I was a designer's nightmare. It was a lot of money and career than school, but it was a strange world. Half the girls were sleeping with everybody and the other half were in bed by eight. I was in bed by eight.

FOR MORE "FINISH THE SENTENCE,"  
VISIT [WWW.MAGNETMAGAZINE.COM](http://WWW.MAGNETMAGAZINE.COM)

**Books** | Why North America shops the way it does

[illegible]

## Best Sellers

Figure 10

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 9. FIND THE LADY, <i>London</i> (20)   | 3 |
| 10. UNUSUAL MEASUREMENT, <i>where's Larry?</i> (7)                               | 3 |
| 11. FIND THE MURDER YOU MEET IN MEXICO, <i>March-April</i> (2)                   | 3 |
| 12. NEW SERIAL, <i>Robert, Justice</i> (1)                                       | 3 |
| 13. THE WAY THE CROQUETS, <i>can't take a foreign club</i> (4)                   | 3 |
| 14. THE EXCESSIVE INCIDENT OF THE GOAL IN THE NIGHT TIME, <i>March-April</i> (2) | 4 |
| 15. SAIL KRAKAP, <i>English</i> (4 word) (2)                                     | 3 |
| 16. THE IN BETWEEN WORLD OF VORAKILL, <i>M. &amp; W.</i> (2)                     | 3 |
| 17. WOLF, KAREEMER, DON'T MEET (2)   | 3 |
| 18. THE ISLAND MURDER, <i>John</i> (2 word) (3)                                  | 3 |

## Non-fiction

- [illegible]

☐ *Cratichneumon*  
☐ *Coelinius* (1860) *Coelinius*

**Film** | With a little help from Gandalf

**Celli Rossetti** is the poster boy for the thriving state of Canadian cinema. The 38-year-old Vancouver-based director makes the kind of sensitive, quiet pictures that this country is known for. The first feature, *Johney*, received a lot of buzz at the Toronto International Film Festival in 1999—but an impregnated Rossetti ended up writing too long and signing with a small Canadian distributor, who never bought his rights for the release date. "I just about lost *Johney* completely," says Rossetti. "It went into a vault, never to be seen again. I somehow managed to get my hands on the actual negative." His next film, *Lola*, played at Sundance, but didn't get much of a post-ban buzz home.

When starting his latest project, Swide (which opens in Toronto on Feb. 6 and Edmonton on Feb. 12), Brown ran into money problems. New policies were, and still are, forcing Canada's film-funding agencies to channel resources into more commercial projects and not into a small movie about a Saskatchewan farm boy turned London pro-

McKillop starts out as  
Saskatchewan's

couldn't get the money. He started shooting anyway, hoping for a miracle. At the last possible moment, the *Versmover* *Udell* of film came to the rescue.

The films opened in *Viacom* over an early January, only to be floored. In its first week at the cinema, *Twelve* pulled in more people than some of the big U.S. movies playing there. But in the second week its number of showings was cut in half, and then it was dropped altogether. The reason, says Bessie: big studios pressure theaters into keeping their movies. "We got bullied out of them," he says. "For the first time, I actually overperformed a Hollywood movie and it didn't matter."

But Bresson's not focusing on only the negative. He did get to make a film in which an Oscar-nominated British knight plays a



Independent filmmaker Bresson has made three Canadian movies, and went to tell the tale

Canadian. After McKellen finished working on *N-Men 2* in Vancouver, he headed to Victoria for the six-week fringe shoot, cutting his agreed fee in half and sharing a dressing room with his co-star Deborah

Kate Winslet: Plus, Hesse used McKellen's extra plane ticket, courtesy of X-Men 2, to fly to London and film the opening credits of *Ende*: "First-class British Airways to London with Gaudy—a corker!" **SHARADAPATHY**

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## BELINDA, MEET WES CLARK

The search for dream candidates can lead to political nightmares

IN JUNE 2000, a few brave Americans allowed themselves to dream.

Buffy ads started to air in New Hampshire. The voices of a man and a woman lamenting the quality of the presidential candidates.

"Wouldn't it be great if we could create our own president?" the woman asks. "A real dream candidate?"

"Yeah," the guy dreams up. "We'd make him really smart."

She files this game. "Wooden Shovel? Oxford graduate? West Point graduate too. First

in his class? Vietnam combat vet? criss. Four-star general? Supreme allied commander of NATO? Just like President Eisenhower!"

You see where this is going, car? You. Fancy how loud and bright it always 20-20.

The idea went from Draft Wes Clark.com, a group of perfectly sincere Americans. Their dream was born in New Hampshire. And New Hampshire is where, last Tuesday, the dreams went down hard, like a sack of potatoes. Clark came in third in the state's Democratic primary.

Which brings us to Belinda Storch.



Every time a political party anywhere chooses a leader, there's a faction—usually the best-financed and most articulate faction—that pushes up and pushes overseas a candidate who is Electable. Any objection to the candidate's obvious limitations is subdued with an inquisitive variation on "Yeah, what about him? But other guys can't get elected."

The logic is always the same. This guy Tony Clement, all he did was run Ontario's health care system during the SARS crisis. This guy Stephen Harper, all he did was help found Reform, lay the intellectual ground work for the Clinton Act, take the lead in creating the Conservative party and rebuild the dignity of the Canadian Alliance.

Plaint, both of them. And they're so godly. What if we could create our own leader of a new party? A real dream candidate?

Yeah! We'd make her really... OK, reasonably smart? Started university? Retired

from great enterprises? Stinking rich? Fabulosity?

Oh, don't you start with me. You know perfectly well that Storch would not have won Israeli-Market coverage in the nation's papers and newsmen if she looked like, say, Tony Clement. Hey, when's Tony anyone? Oh, there he is in the corner, leaning up and down, flailing his arms, begging for our attention. Go away, Tony. We've found a dream candidate. She's Electable.

None of this is meant to denigrate Belinda Storch's decision to enter politics. We need more people getting into politics, not fewer. Well, probably not, but it sounds paranoic to say so. Anyway, Storch should be considered an heretic. For all anyone knows she may be a competent administrator, bridge builder, decisive leader.

But the electability argument is never an ode to the candidate's merits. It's just an attempt to bully the public—random-the

party members, political columnists—into ignoring the compl or combination of flaws and merits that any candidate represents. The appeal to "electability" is, always and veridically, an appeal to the false gods that make the political class believe it can outsmart the street voter.

Oh sure, Herow Wes Clark never ran for office before. Never had to make a case to a divided electorate. Never had to explain his position on a dozen defense topics. But the average voter... well, let's be honest, so? He'll like the shiny buttons on the fancy uniform so much he won't ask questions.

Belinda Storch? Flash some ankle or a money clip and the rubes will forget they ever heard of Paul Martin. Stoddard Day? In 2000 a well-paid political columnist explained to me patiently that Day's sex appeal would run him millions of women's votes.

Because that's the way women vote, isn't it? "I'm not sure about this guy's stance on abortion, social programs or the Middle East. But if I vote for him, he just might sleep with me."

Last year, the web for dream candidates led some conservativeists to post for Ontario's Mike Harris or New Brunswick's Bernard Lord, who at various moments have become their provinces' like calais. Funny thing is, when they actually won the elections that made them dream candidates, nobody thought they were dream candidates. Lord was a Montreal lawyer. Harris was some kind of small-town sports pro. They were actually kind of goofy.

Women don't go to the polls looking for a hero or a date. All they want is a plan and somebody they want to implement it. Conservatives: please vote for Belinda Storch if you think she would make the best prime minister for you. Your only hope is that we'll agree. Don't try to guess what the rest of us will fall for. That's arrogant. It won't pay. It never does.

To comment: backpage@THEBACKPAGES.COM  
Send Paul Wells a letter: "Storch's teeth," at www.thebackpage.com/pwells

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